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MID & WEST KENT EDITION

Issue no 476

Hospital's 'worrying' death rates add to NHS cuts fears

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

"DISTURBINGLY" high death rates at Medway Maritime Hospital have sparked new fears over the impact of Government spending cuts on the NHS.

According to new statistics released by the Department of Health, almost 240 more people than expected died at the site in Gillingham in the last financial year.

The data is based on the new Summary Hospital-level Mortality Indicator (SHMI), which looks at deaths both in hospitals and up to 30 days after a patient is discharged.

According to the new measure, Medway was placed sixth on a list of 36 hospitals in England with higher than expected death rates.

Cllr Teresa Murray – Labour spokeswoman for adult health and social care at Medway Council – urged the Government to take action.

She said: "These are very worrying figures indeed, especially as even more pressures are being placed on hospitals by the Coalition cuts.

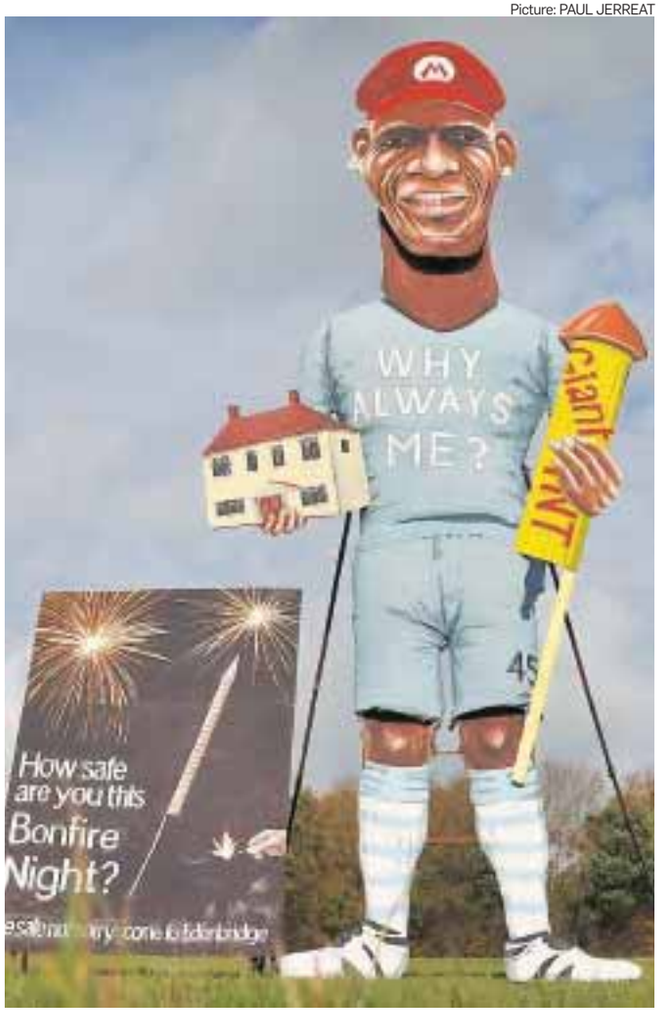
"Government figures show an £800m funding drop in real terms for the NHS nationally in the Coalition's first year. Meanwhile, its drive to make £20 billion of efficiency savings by 2015 is putting a tight squeeze on services.

"On top of these worrying death rates at Medway hospital, the number of patients waiting more than four hours in A&E has more than doubled in a year, and many others have not been treated within recommended time limits. The proposed merger with Darent Valley Hospital also raises serious concerns."

Labour's Cllr Julie Shaw, who is

Continued on page 2

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE

HOT STUFF: Mario Balotelli to go up in smoke for bonfire night display **SEE INSIDE**

ECONOMY

Enterprise group 'too big'

THE body set up to drive economic growth in the county has been criticised for being to large to be effective.

The South East Local Enterprise Partnership covers Kent, Essex and East Sussex – too large an area to be useful according to think tank Centre for Cities. **PAGE 2**

TRANSPORT

Toll increase 'will happen'

TOLLS at the Dartford Crossing will still be going up by 50p, a government minister warned this week.

Tolls were due to rise to £2 for cars at the start of the month, but so far nothing has been implemented.

Minister Mike Penning said the rise would happen. **PAGE 3**

SPORT

Kent pleased by coach CVs

THE deadline for candidates interested in the vacant head coach post at Kent is tomorrow, with more than 50 applications received already.

Jamie Clifford, the club's chief executive, says the group includes some exciting names and expects interviews to be held this month. **PAGE 78**

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INSIDE

News.....2-23
Kent Remembered 25
Comment/Feedback 26-27
Business Week.....29-31
Keep Kent Working . 32-33
Jobs & Notices..... 34-41
Sport..... 78-79

INSIDE Kent Weekend

Interview 45
Food and drink 47&49
Bonfire Night 48

LEISURE

Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, ... 50-53

HOMES

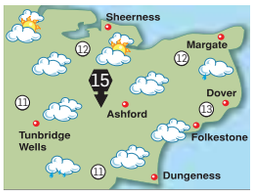
Property..... 54-57

MOTORS

Driving 61-70
4X4 Buyer's Guide ..71-77

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TONIGHT: Cloudy with a spot of drizzle. Min temp 8-11C (46-52F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	07.48	5.8	20.30	5.8
Margate	08.45	4.2	21.26	4.3
St Mary's	01.25	4.6	13.45	4.8

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 13C	Min 8C
Tuesday	Max 13C	Min 9C
Wednesday	Max 15C	Min 9C
Thursday	Max 15C	Min 10C
Friday	Max 15C	Min 10C
Saturday	Max 15C	Min 9C

Information supplied by MeteoGroup

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HEALTH CARE

Health concerns as unexpectedly high death rate revealed

Continued from front page

submitting the issue as a health committee member's item, added: "These are very disturbing figures, and so it is important the council does everything it can to look into the problem to ensure these statistics are not repeated in future."

The SHMI runs alongside the Hospital Standardised Mortality Ratio (HSMR), which measures deaths in hospitals.

It compares the actual number of deaths to the figure normally expected, taking into account factors such as the age of a patient and the type of illness contracted.

Between April, 2010, and March this year, Medway hospital had 1,745 deaths when only 1,507 were expected.

A spokesman for Medway NHS Foundation Trust said it found no evidence of any deficiency in the quality of medical and nursing care received by patients, and that since September, 2010, rates have remained well within the normal range.

He added: "The trust welcomes this new tool to help improve understanding of mortality trends across the community.

"We are committed to working with partners in primary and community care to achieve sustained improvements in healthcare.

"The trust will continue to monitor both the HSMR (available monthly) and SHMI (available every three months) to ensure the quality of care received by its patients remains high."

■ **See more news and sport at www.yourmedway.co.uk.**

ECONOMY

Think tank criticises sprawling enterprise partnership as too big

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk



Picture: PAUL JERREAT

BIG BUSINESS: The Sandwich Enterprise Zone at is one of two in the Local Enterprise Partnership boundary area

THE organisation set up to drive economic growth in Kent, Essex and East Sussex has been labelled "too large to be effective".

Despite playing an important role in convincing the Government to make the former Pfizer site at Sandwich an Enterprise Zone, the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) has come in for criticism from the Centre for Cities think tank.

In a report marking a year since the Government announced the UK's first 24 LEPs, the group says the majority are making slow progress and are being hamstrung by a range of factors including size.

The report reads: "Now the LEP network covers almost all of England, we are able to assess whether the boundaries make sense spatially and economically. One way of measuring whether LEPs are operating at the right economic scale is to look at travel-to-work areas (TTWAs).

The South East LEP covers 16 different TTWAs, as well as being split by the Thames Estuary, which suggests it is too large to be effective."

The report also criticises the size of the organisation's 43-strong board, concluding it could add "a layer of bureaucracy that might slow decision-making".

Launched in October last year, the South East LEP was considered a suitable replacement for the South East England Development Agency (Seeda), which was also criticised for being too large.

Kent County Council originally wanted to form a much smaller LEP with Medway Council but instead made an agreement with Essex and East Sussex amid pressure from the Government.

The biggest achievement of the organisation to date is the successful Enterprise Zone bids for Sandwich and Harlow in Essex, which the Centre for Cities report admits gives it a "significant long-term leverage" to influence growth.

South East LEP chairman John Spence – the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Essex – said the partnership was making progress.

He added: "Given that we were moving from a standing start, it is fair to say it has taken time to move to full impetus. However, our powerful board has agreed a clear and ambitious vision.

"We are now pushing forward workstreams to deliver our priorities with a minimum of bureaucracy. The Government's designation of two Enterprise Zones in our LEP area is testament to our speed of action and ability to prioritise, despite our size.

"I am committed to ensuring the South East LEP adds value and is focused on our mission to create the most enterprising economy in England."

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TRANSPORT

Minister committed to a third crossing as tolls increase due

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

TRANSPORT minister Mike Penning has warned motorists that a planned 50p toll rise at the Dartford Crossing is still going ahead.

Extra charges were due to be introduced at the start of November – taking the price up to £2 for cars and £5 for lorries – but nothing has changed almost a week into the new month.

Speaking to Archant KOS Media during a visit to Kent on Thursday, the Under-Secretary of State for Transport Mike Penning (Con) refused to be drawn on when the increases will come into force.

"We have to go through due process, which we are doing," he said. "This takes time so I can't provide an exact date.

"What we need to talk about is why we're increasing the charges. The biggest problem with the Dartford Crossing is the queues caused by people paying, so if we take away the barriers then we will reduce the congestion and that's something I want to do.

"The increases will help pay for new charging technology that we hope to introduce by the end of 2013, and then we'll need to use the money to get another Thames crossing, which will help enormously.

"Nobody wants to pay a toll but it's the traffic delays that make people more angry."

Late last year Kent County Council published its Growth Without Gridlock transport strategy, which included a proposal to build a £1 billion tunnel connecting Chadwell in Essex with land to the east of Gravesend.

Mr Penning said while the Government was committed to constructing a third Thames crossing, a decision on its location has not yet been made.

"We've already said we intend to do it when the previous Government couldn't make their minds up, but again we need to go through due process," he said.

"Whether it's a bridge or a tunnel, or if it's next to the Dartford Crossing or further down the river, we don't yet know.

"Free-flow charging at the Dartford Crossing will help ease congestion, but if we really want growth then we need another crossing."

Former Grenadier Guard Mr Penning was in Kent to pay a visit to the Aylesford-based Royal British Legion Industries, which employs hundreds of disabled workers, including ex-servicemen and women.



A central part of the RBLI's social enterprise operation is its Sign Shop, which holds contracts with a number of high-profile businesses and is the largest single supplier of signs to Network Rail.

Mr Penning, who was invited by Chatham and Aylesford MP Tracey Crouch, said: "You can't just rely on the fact you're a social enterprise to be successful. You have to deliver quality at an affordable price, and that's what RBLI does.

"It's wonderful to see and they set a great example for other social enterprises."



FUTURE: Mike Penning MP wants a third crossing to be built to ease the congestion

LAW AND ORDER

Police watchdog chief in hot water over political campaigning with public funds

KENT Police Authority chairwoman Ann Barnes has received a slap on the wrist for using public money to criticise Government policy.

Over the past year the police watchdog has issued a number of press releases attacking plans for elected police commissioners, with one of the most recent describing them as "naive and disastrous".



Complaints about the releases and a blog post by Mrs Barnes, pictured, were received by the authority in September, accusing it of breaching publicity guidelines by using public money for political campaigning.

Mrs Barnes has now been "reminded of her responsibilities" as a result, as has fellow KPA member Stephen Hiscock, who also criticised the commissioner plans in a press release.

Chief executive Graham Hooper said: "The assessment sub-committee considered complaints against two members of KPA.

"After deliberating, they referred the matter to me in my capacity as monitoring officer for the authority with a number of actions. These included reminding the members concerned of their responsibilities under the code of conduct and local authority guidance on publicity. Advice was also given to one member of staff."

The code of practice on local authority publicity – which forms part of the Local Government Act 1986 – also applies to police authorities.

It states that publicity which comments on central Government policies should be "objective, balanced, informative and accurate" and that publicity touching on controversial issues should be "approached with particular care and should not over-simplify facts, issues and arguments".

Mrs Barnes and Mr Hiscock are two of seven independents serving the police authority, which will be scrapped next year and replaced with one directly-elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). There are also seven Conservative councillors, one Labour and one Lib Dem.

Tory KPA member Cllr Craig Mackinlay said it was frustrating to read press releases that were highly critical of the PCC plans when he was supportive of them.

He said: "You wouldn't expect turkeys to vote for Christmas but this turkey did because I think the PCC is a superb idea."

Last month Army veteran Colonel Tim Collins announced his intention to become Kent's first PCC as a potential Conservative candidate.

Col Collins was awarded an OBE after delivering a morale-boosting speech to troops – a copy of which was hung in the Oval Office by then-President George W Bush – on the eve of the Iraq War in March, 2003.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Birds shot with air rifle

A GOOSE had to be put down by vets after being shot in the neck seven times by an air rifle.

It was one of three geese attacked at the Inn on the Lake Hotel in Shorne, near Gravesend, on October 22.

An X-ray of the injured goose was taken at Meopham Veterinary Surgery showing six or seven rifle pellets in its neck.

The RSPCA said another goose had gone missing and a third had suffered grazes to the head.

Dracula assaulted

A MAN dressed as Dracula needed stitches after being assaulted at the Funky Monkey Club in Dover.

The 24-year-old, who was in Halloween fancy dress, was taken to the William Harvey Hospital after being hit and falling to the floor at 1.20am on October 30. He suffered injuries to his head and face and needed stitches for a cut.

A 21-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of assault and bailed until November 29.

Prison for rape trio

THREE men have been jailed for a total of 24 years after being found guilty of raping a 17-year-old girl at a party in Dartford.

Max Parker, 27, of Fleetdale Parade, Dartford, Benjamin Millen, 23, of Holywell Lane, Upchurch, and Ryan King, 20, of Moore Close, Dartford, were each sentenced to eight years, given a 10-year sex offender's prevention order and will remain on the sex offenders' register for life.

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DE VERE VILLAGE

BONFIRE NIGHT

A scorcher! Footballer Balotelli feels heat

By Ed Hill
ed.hill@archant.co.uk

AN EFFIGY of Manchester City footballer Mario Balotelli is to be burnt at the stake by the Edenbridge Bonfire Society.

The 40ft-tall model is an appropriate choice for Bonfire Night given a recent escapade with fireworks that saw Balotelli's house almost burnt down after a friend let off a firework in the bathroom of his Cheshire mansion.

The Italian international has since become an unlikely promoter of the Firework Code safety campaign.

The footballer was the unanimous choice of the bonfire society's selection committee.

The guy features the footballer wearing the cryptic T-shirt with the words 'Why always me?' that he revealed during City's 6-1 thrashing of arch rivals Manchester United. Balotelli scored two goals in the match.

The guy, designed by artist Frank Shepherd, is wearing a hat from the Super Mario computer game and clutching a large rocket and house in his hands.

Striker Balotelli has proved a controversial figure since joining Manchester City.

In March, team officials launched an investigation into his behaviour after he threw a dart towards a youth-team player at the team's training ground.

The 21-year-old has picked up a string of parking fines around Manchester and been reprimanded by City manager Roberto Mancini for showing contempt for the fans when he missed an easy chance for a goal in a friendly game by attempting to score with a back-heel.

He has also had a variety of eye-catching hairstyles, including a tyre-track Mohawk and patchwork of multicolours.

Charles Laver from the society said: "We are fairly sure he will see the funny side and understand that we are right behind him in his campaign."

Society members say they wanted to create some Premiership balance with this year's guy. Last year they chose Wayne Rooney, who plays for Manchester United.

The Edenbridge society can trace its origins back at least 150 years, but it is only since the 90s that it has been creating the celebrity guy. Previous choices have included Tony Blair, Katie Price, Saddam Hussein and Jonathan Ross.

Alongside the effigy of Balotelli a more traditional Guy Fawkes will also be burnt.

Edenbridge is one of many bonfire societies in the area who can trace their roots back to the cult of the Sussex Martyrs. The groups start Bonfire Night with a candlelit procession through the streets before heading to a large fire.

The events take place over a 10-week period through October and November.

The societies use the event to collect money for local charities; in recent years, Edenbridge has raised more than £50,000.

The procession starts at 6.30pm on Saturday, November 5. Visit the website www.edenbridge-bonfire.co.uk for ticket details.

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



BRUSHING UP: Artist Frank Shepherd brandishes his brush in front of Edenbridge's Mario Balotelli guy

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mobile-phone arrests

THREE people were arrested by undercover police cracking down on mobile-phone theft in Maidstone town centre.

On Saturday night, three people were arrested on suspicion of theft of a mobile phone. A 21-year-old man from Sevenoaks and a 22-year-old man from Maidstone both received cautions for the offence. A 21 year-old man from Maidstone was charged with theft and will appear at Maidstone Magistrates' Court on November 14.

Art with your pint

TWO pubs in Tunbridge Wells have become the inspiration for arts of work. The Lovers by Shelly Goldsmith is housed in the Duke of York pub. It draws upon the layers of romantic liaisons that have taken place over the years in the bar public. And Jane Pitt's Eccentric Pub Opera is on show at the Wetherspoon's Opera House pub. It reveals hidden sounds heard in the building down the years. In the past the opera house has also been a bingo hall and cinema.

Drug charges after raid

TWO men have been charged after a drugs bust.

Dean Smith, 36, of The Cockpit, Marden, has been charged with possession of Class A and B drugs. Joseph Mitchell, 24, of Albion Road, Marden, was charged with possession of a Class B drug. Both were bailed to appear before Maidstone magistrates on November 14. A 36-year-old from Maidstone was arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply and was bailed to December 29.

COLLISION

Crimewatch appeal to catch the van driver who paralysed grandmother

A BBC Crimewatch appeal has been made by the family of a grandmother who was left paralysed after she was run over by a van driver.

Carol Bright, 58, was in Churchill Way, Bromley, in September last year waiting to meet her husband Peter when she was run over by the van.

She was hit in the back by the vehicle, which reversed over her. Still fully conscious, she was dragged underneath the vehicle until a witness shouted at the driver to stop.

She was taken to King's College Hospital in London, where she had surgery to repair a disc in her neck that had been shattered by the impact. The operation meant she could sit up, rather than having to lie down for the rest of her life.

Mrs Bright spent five months in intensive care. She suffered two cardiac arrests, a chest infection, a lung collapse and violent spasms. She was transferred to the spinal unit at Stanmore Hospital, where she is still being treated.



WANTED: Alexander Abimbola

Alexander Abimbola is wanted in connection with an investigation into the incident and insurance offences after he failed to answer police bail.

Mrs Bright's daughter, Tara, said: "I still cannot believe this has happened to my mum, who is so careful, who would never drive at any speed, always crossed the road with care, whose famous saying was 'Take care of yourself and phone me when you get there'.

"We know the driver won't get a life sentence, but we as a family have."

Mr Abimbola is black and in his late 20s or early 30s. Anyone who knows of his whereabouts can call Crimewatch anonymously on 0800 55511.

Although the driver of the van was uninsured, Mrs Bright's care is being funded from the Motor Insurance Bureau (MIB).

The MIB funds care costs for people involved in collisions with uninsured drivers. It is paid for by motorists through their car insurance and costs the average driver £30 a year.



EDUCATION

Primary applications

MEDWAY primary school admissions for next year open at 9am, on Monday, November 7, when parents can use the council's online admissions form to make four school preferences. Rather than filling in a paper form parents will be able to complete their school application form online at www.medway.gov.uk/onlinadmissions. Applications close on January 15.

ENVIRONMENT

Third new 'seven oaks'

ON Thursday, November 10, the town mayor of Sevenoaks, Cllr Mrs Margaret Crabtree will plant an oak tree on Brittains Common. This will be the third of the new 'Seven Oaks'. Each mayor for the following four years will plant an oak on the common to form the new series of 'Seven Oaks'. The tree will be a Cypress Oak, selected for its interesting narrow shape.

POLLUTION

Water firm fined after sewage kills 275 fish

SOUTHERN Water has been told pay nearly £19,000 after sewage leaked into a stream and killed fish.

The sewage discharge at the Cranbrook treatment works happened last year, in Hammer Stream at Hammer Mill Farm, Biddenden, which is joined to the Crane Brook.

On September 16 an officer from the Environment Agency found fish gasping for air at the weir upstream of the farm, and a survey found 275 dead fish in the area including bullhead, stone loach and sticklebacks.

The Environment Agency prosecuted Southern Water for allowing sewage to discharge into a stream due to an avoidable incident.

The company appeared at Sevenoaks Magistrates' Court and pleaded guilty to the offence. It was fined £13,500 and ordered to pay costs of £5,406 as well as a victim surcharge of £15, totalling £18,921.

The court heard the treatment works cannot always handle the volume sent to it and at times of heavy rainfall there is a risk of the system becoming overwhelmed.

During these times the company is allowed to discharge some sewage into watercourses, but it must be screened to remove waste items to reduce the environmental impact.

Environment Agency senior environment officer Ben Tragett said: "The discharge seems to have been caused due to a blockage at the works. Alarms on the systems there should identify when this happens.

"We will not tolerate this sort of incident, we expect companies handling raw sewage to take their responsibilities very seriously and while we would rather work with them to sort these problems as early as possible, we are prepared to take legal action when such breaches occur."



POLLUTED: Sewage in stream

Southern Water apologised for the incident, which it said happened during heavy rain when screens that normally filter debris from the wastewater became blocked.

Heavily diluted flows that would normally go through the screens into storm tanks before being treated, were instead released into the brook via land irrigation.

The company said it took immediate action to mitigate the effects of the pollution and clean up the brook, and has since made improvements to the site and enhanced the alarm and monitoring systems to reduce the risk of similar incidents.

Wastewater quality manager Graham Purvis said: "We are sorry this incident happened as we take our responsibility of protecting the environment seriously, and this site has not given us any significant problems in the past.

"We will continue to monitor the works to see if any other long-term improvements can be made."

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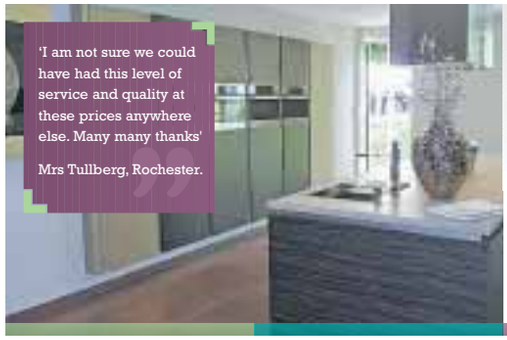
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News

ARMED FORCES

Statue honours troops serving in Afghanistan

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A LIFESIZE statue of a soldier has been unveiled in honour of troops currently serving in Afghanistan.

The 6ft bronze statue, at Brenchley Gardens in Maidstone, was created to recognise the county town's connection with the 36 Engineer Regiment – home to the Queen's Gurkha Engineers.

Six members of the regiment, based at Invicta Park Barracks, have died since the conflict in Afghanistan started in 2001.

Maidstone council leader Cllr Chris Garland said: "The 36 Engineer Regiment has not only played an important part in the life of the town for more than 60 years but has proudly defended our nation in times of crisis.

"The statue commemorates their valour and their association with Maidstone."

Sussex sculptor Mary Cox was commissioned to create the artwork, which depicts a soldier in his battle fatigues returning to base after a search-and-destroy mission for improvised explosive devices.

The £20,000 figure was paid for with contributions from businesses and members of the public following a fundraising appeal led by the council and the Maidstone Trust.

Lt Col Simon Hulme of the 36 Engineer Regiment said: "It is an honour and a privilege to serve in a town which has taken us so much to its heart."

■ **More news at yourmaidstone.co.uk.**

Picture: PAUL JERREAT



TIES: 36 Engineer Regiment are based in Maidstone

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UTILITIES

Water company misses leaks target, so you get a fiver back

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

MILLIONS of litres of water are leaking out of Kent's pipes every day – but just £5 will be knocked off customers' bills in compensation.

A report by water regulator Ofwat named and shamed six firms which had failed to miss their leakage targets, including Southern Water, which saw 96 million litres escape from pipes each day in 2010-11.

Ofwat demanded the firm return £5 million to customers for failing to deliver its planned reduction in leakage for 2010-11.

Southern Water said it would take £5 off bills for every customer from April 1, 2015.

The company, which provides water supply and sewerage services across Kent, blamed winter for missing its leakage target of 83 million litres a day.

"Last winter was the coldest winter on record and the freezing conditions caused pipes to burst at an alarming rate," said a Southern Water spokeswoman.

"Despite heavy snow for an extended period, our staff were able to ensure supplies were maintained and we suffered no serious supply losses.

"We are focused on driving leakage down and we repaired more than 22,000 leaks across our region in 2010-11 – a record number for the company.

"This was thanks to a £20m leak reduction programme launched in April, 2010."

Southern Water is halfway through its second year of the programme and has invested a further £20m.

Ofwat accused Southern Water of "falling short". The company had also failed leakage targets in 2009-10.

Concerns were also raised over Southern Water's security of supply, but Ofwat said it was satisfied that plans were in place to recover performance.

Kent's other water suppliers Veolia South East and South East Water raised no concerns in the annual Ofwat report.



WHAT A WASTE: Southern Water said the harsh winter was to blame for high levels of water leaks

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News

CHARITY

Fundraising golfers are a big hit with the elderly residents at care home

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

KIND-HEARTED golfers have helped raise more than £1,000 towards a residential home for the elderly.

Nine teams took part in the golf day staged at Lamberhurst Golf Club to raise money for Mount Ephraim House.

The money raised goes towards the home's amenity fund to help enhance the lifestyles of those staying at the house.

Marilyn Bridger, activities co-ordinator at the home, said: "We are very grateful to everyone who took part and would like to thank them and all our sponsors for their generosity.

"We are always keen to meet not just the basic needs of our residents but also their wishes so we are asking them what we should spend the money on.



TEE TIME: Golfers raised more than £1,000 for Mount Ephraim House

"Suggestions so far have included a piano recital, extending wi-fi coverage to the games room and library; another computer to use in the library; or more art materials for our recently opened art studio."

Nine teams of golfers took part in the day, with the eventual winning team consisting of Lee Smart, Jack Killalea, Tommy Morris and Jimmy Killick.

The date for next year's fundraising golf day has already been confirmed for October 12, 2012.

■ **All the news at www.yourtunbridgewells.co.uk.**

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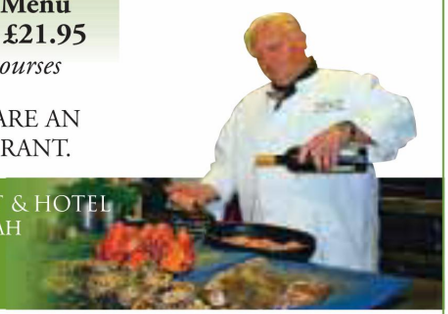


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PUBLIC FINANCE

Return of Iceland cash is not enough to save us from spending cuts

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

CUTBACKS will still be made at Kent County Council despite the authority being due to recover almost all of the £50 million frozen in Icelandic banks.

The council had £17m held in Landsbanki and £15m in Glitnir following the 2008 banking collapse, but last week the Icelandic Supreme Court confirmed the authority as a preferred creditor for its deposits.

This means almost all the cash will be returned over the next few months in addition to most of the £18m frozen in the UK-based Heritable Bank, of which £11m has already been recovered.

However, KCC cabinet member for finance Cllr John Simmonds warned the cash will not be used to make up for government spending cuts.

"The money we're getting back is completely irrelevant in that context," he said. "That £50m was part of the council's cashflow of about £250m, but just because we're recovering it does not mean we can stop making cutbacks.

"The council has a budget of about £2.5 billion and about 10 per cent of that is used to pay salaries, benefits and so on. We always have to make sure we have enough money set aside to meet our needs."

Of the £50m frozen in Iceland, some £16m belonged to the Kent Pension Fund and £1m to the Kent Fire and Rescue Authority.

The forecast recovery is 100 per cent from Glitnir, 98 per cent from Landsbanki and 95 per cent from Heritable.

Cllr Simmonds said lessons had been learned from the banking collapse, but repeated previous comments that the council was not at fault for temporarily losing its investments.

"A lot of people are looking at 2008 events with 2011 eyes when the fact of the matter is these banks had top ratings and fitted with the criteria the council had agreed was appropriate," he said. "The Government of the time also asked us to be imaginative with our investments, so there was nothing outlandish going on.

"One important lesson we have learned is to consider more carefully the countries certain banks are based in. The Icelandic banks were well-run in that they had good assets underpinning them, but the Icelandic government was unable to support them when they collapsed."

Cllr Simmonds added that KCC has now changed the way it handles its investments, including placing more deposits in British banks.

"We're as confident as we can be that nothing on this scale will happen again, as we are now only with banks that have top-star ratings and we also take advice from Treasury advisers.

"We're obviously going to be very cautious."

Meanwhile, KCC has also recovered the £10m it had invested in the troubled Belgian bank Dexia.

The money deposited in 2008 was underwritten with guarantees by the Belgian, French and Luxembourg governments, which bailed the bank out last month.

POLITICS

MEP named on 'most influential' Euro list

KENT Lib Dem MEP Sharon Bowles MEP has been named on a list of the 100 'most influential' women working in European finance, by industry newspaper the Financial News.

She said: "As chair of the European Parliament's economic committee, I will continue to contribute to the debate surrounding the eurozone crisis and help shape financial legislation. It is a difficult time for Europe and I hope countries see sense and do what is needed to get through the crisis."

HOUSING

Vulnerable tenants offered digital swap

A DIGITAL TV service is being developed to make it easier for vulnerable tenants of social housing to swap homes.

The scheme by Kent Homechoice – a partnership between every council and housing association in the county – has been made possible through a £70,000 grant from the Government.

It coincides with the launch of HomeSwap Direct – a national internet service that allows tenants to search for swaps anywhere in England for free.

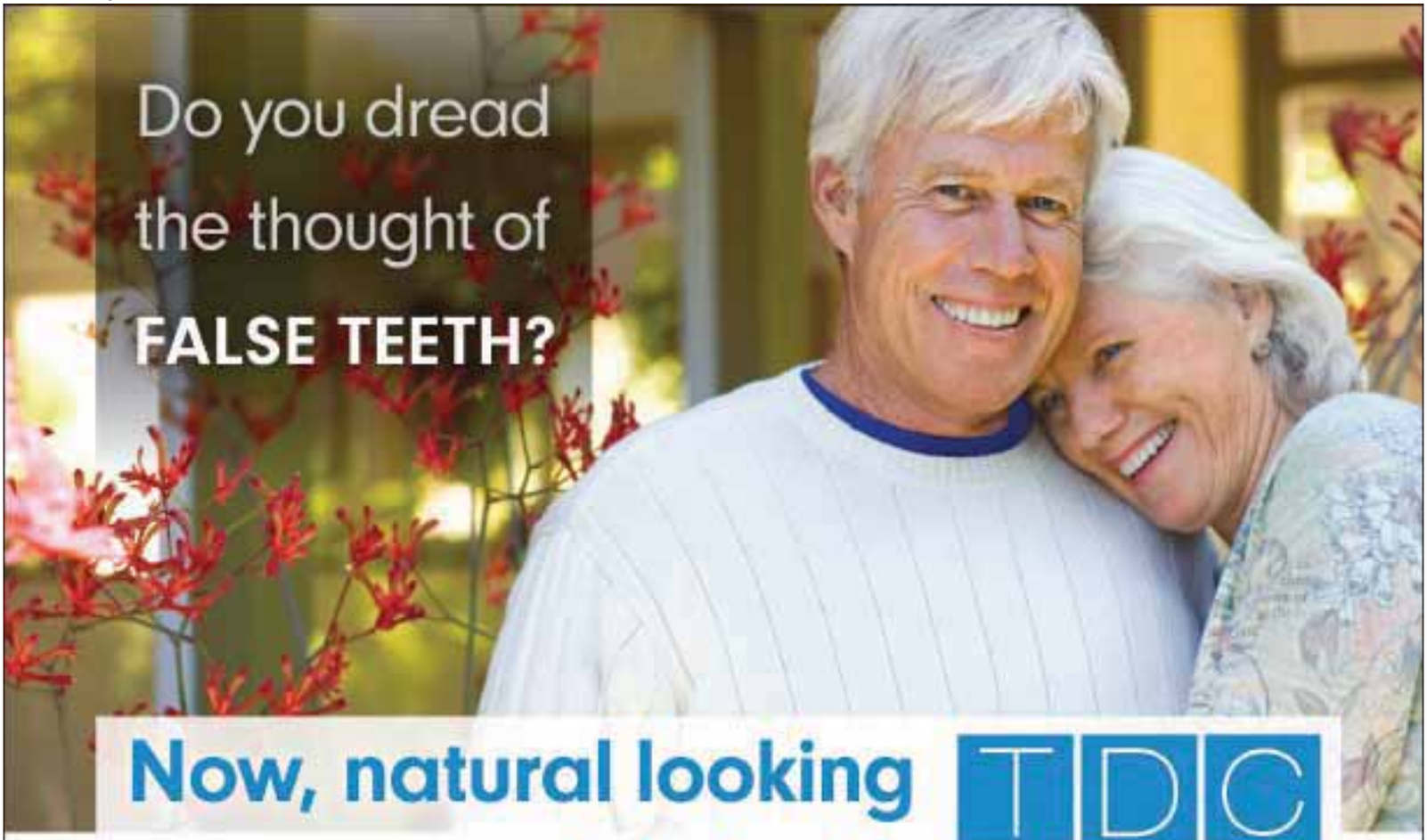
Housing minister Grant Shapps said: "I'm pleased Kent Homechoice is one of 12 organisations sharing £1m funding to help make a difference to the future of social housing, and trying new innovative ways of supporting their tenants.

"This is a great opportunity to see what more we can do to increase mobility in social housing and I look forward to hearing about progress made."

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WILDLIFE

MPs 'must' act on anti-social gulls

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

COASTAL homeowners fed up with seagulls ripping open rubbish bags and defecating on their washing have had their case heard in Parliament.

In 2009, Dover council asked people to delay putting their rubbish out until as close to collection as possible to reduce the risk of the birds tearing bin bags apart and scavenging for food.

And traders in Shepway and Thanet have also called for a mass cull of seagulls due to their "menacing" behaviour.

Peter Aldous, Conservative MP for Waveney in Suffolk, secured a debate on the problem in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

He said: "Thousands of people around the country are affected, and we owe it to them to come up with measures to make their lives more tolerable."

Environment minister Jim Paice said there was no single solution and it required "concerted action over a sustained period" to take away all the things that attracted the birds in the first place.

Deal resident and RSPB volunteer Carol Knott is raising awareness of the plight of seagulls as part of the charity's Marine Campaign.

"One of the big challenges is overcoming the perception that seabirds are annoying and there are plenty of them," she said. "They urgently need our help because numbers are declining."

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News

MEDIA

Local programmes to be slashed as BBC Radio Kent faces funding cuts

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

PLANS to cut the BBC's local radio service have been highlighted in Parliament by Kent MPs.

The corporation's 40 local radio stations will see output slashed as a result of the 'Delivering Quality First' proposals, which will leave Radio Kent with just its breakfast, mid-morning and drivetime weekday shows intact.

Weekend sport and faith programming is also protected under the plans, but most non-peak time programming will be shared with other stations.

A total of 280 posts are also under threat across the country as part of the BBC's plan to reduce its budget by 20 per cent over the next five years.

Former BBC radio producer Roger Gale, Tory MP for North Thanet, told a Commons debate: "The BBC has always argued it does not want ghetto broadcasting, saying that it will not cream off the important bits and that it has to provide a rounded programme.



RADIO VOICE: MP Roger Gale

"The people who listen to BBC local radio listen to it all, not just a bit of it. That means the music in the afternoon, the community programmes, and people such as Jo Burn on BBC Radio Kent, who does wonderful work in the community, matter a great deal."

The BBC has been tasked with finding savings after the Government froze the licence fee in last year's spending review until 2016-17.

In order to save £27 million across the English regions, local television news will also have fewer bulletins and neighbouring regions will share current affairs programming.

Folkestone and Hythe Tory MP Damian Collins and his Dartford colleague Gareth Johnson were among those championing local radio in the Commons debate.

Mr Johnson said: "The local nature of radio stations means there is a bond between the presenters and the listeners."

Visit www.bbc.co.uk/bbctrust for more information.

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News

POPPY APPEAL

11.11.11 - a day to

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE nation will fall silent on Friday as the clock strikes 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, marking the end of World War One and the return of peace to Europe 93 years ago.

Veterans, families and young people will attend Armistice Day ceremonies on Friday and Remembrance Sunday services to honour those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country and the soldiers who continue to put their lives at risk today.

Wreaths will be laid and parades held through many of Kent's towns as the county comes together to pay tribute to the fallen.

The Queen will also be making a special Remembrance visit to Margate with the Duke of Edinburgh on Armistice Day.

Organisers of the 2011 poppy appeal, the Royal British Legion, said Remembrance Day and the two-minute silence had been observed since the end of World War One and that their relevance remained undiminished.

"When we bow our heads in reflection, we remember those who fought for our freedom during the two world wars," said a spokesman.

"But we also mourn and honour those who have lost their lives in more recent conflicts. Today, with troops on duty in Afghanistan and other trouble spots around the world, Remembrance and the two-minute tribute are as important as ever."

The poppy appeal was officially launched at County Hall in Maidstone last week under the motto Shoulder to Shoulder, encouraging the public to stand alongside the Armed Forces by supporting them.

Geoff Simpson, county manager for the Royal British Legion, said money raised through the poppy appeal helped get the lives of former and serving personnel back on track when in need.

"In Kent, we will have responded to more than 1,300 requests for help in this year alone and this number is likely to grow in light of the current conflicts," he said.

"More than £1.4 million is spent each week on the legion's work to help our Armed Forces family, so every penny that people generously give to our poppy appeal collection is vitally important.

"Please stand shoulder to shoulder with all who serve by wearing a poppy."

Services are being held across the county with two-minute silences to be observed at 11am.

Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust is recognising both Armistice Day on November 11 and Remembrance Sunday on November 13 with ceremonies at the National Destroyer Memorial in the centre of the dockyard.

Visitors are invited to join the dockyard community for the two minutes' silence, which will end with the firing of B Gun on World War Two destroyer and national memorial HMS Cavalier by the Heritage Naval Gun Crew.

At 11am on Remembrance Sunday a gun will also be fired at Fort Amherst by the Napoleonic re-enactors of the 4th Battalion Royal Foot Artillery to signal the start of the two-minute silence to Medway.

Gravesham's service of Remembrance will take place at the Community Square, Civic Centre, on Friday, followed by music from the Salvation Army Band.

Sunday's services will be at the war memorial at Windmill Hill from 10.45am with the Gravesend Borough Band and Royal British Legion, and at 10.45am at the war memorial at The Hill, Northfleet, with the Salvation Army Band.

In Canterbury, a dedication of the Field of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Longmarket is taking place on Thursday, November 10, at 6pm. On Friday a short service will be held at 11am at the war memorial in Buttermarket and at the Cenotaph.

On Sunday, a parade, assembling at Iron Bar Lane in Canterbury behind WHSmith at 9.45am, will move down Burgate to the cathedral. Wreath-laying will be at the war memorial at 10.27am at Buttermarket and at 10.50am a service of Remembrance at the cathedral.

A service will be held at 11am at the Dover War Memorial outside the town council offices



remember



on Friday with a remembrance concert at Dover town hall at 7.30pm. Neighbouring Deal will hold a service on Friday at 10.45am at Hamilton Road cemetery.

In Tonbridge and Malling, two minutes' silence will be held at the Watergate by the memorial outside the grounds of Tonbridge Castle.

On Sunday, in Tonbridge, a short service and wreath laying ceremony will take place in the Remembrance Gardens, Bradford Street, starting at 10.45am and at 11.15am a parade will leave Bradford Street and continue to the Parish Church of St Peter and St Paul for the town service of Remembrance, beginning at 11.45am.

In West Malling, a parade will begin at the Saluting Base at 2pm and continue to St Mary's Church for a service at 2.30pm.

In Aylesford, a Remembrance Day parade and service will be held in the Royal British Legion Village's Garden of Remembrance at 2.45pm.

A ceremony will be held on Friday at the Machine Gun Corps memorial at the cemetery in Cheriton Road, Folkestone, at 11am, and Remembrance Sunday service at 10.45am.

In Ramsgate, on Friday, a wreath laying ceremony is being held in Albion gardens at 8.30am; a service of Remembrance in the town centre at 10.50am; and wreath-laying and service at 10.50am at Ramsgate cemetery.

On Sunday, there is a parade at 10.35am starting in Elms Avenue, Ramsgate, and a service at 10.50am at St George's Church.

FOR THE FALLEN: There will be a number of parades, wreath layings and memorial services held all around the county to give people the opportunity to remember those who fell for us not just in the two world wars, but also in more recent conflicts, with the Poppy Appeal a vital fundraising effort to support our heroes



ART

'Random' picture a memorial to children



A FORMER student at the University of the Creative Arts in Canterbury will have his latest piece seen by millions of people visiting St Paul's Cathedral.

Ted Harrison's work has been commissioned to coincide with Remembrance Day.

The work, measuring 30ft in diameter, is placed under the cathedral's dome. It is made up of thousands of fallen poppies which from ground level seem to have fallen at random, but when seen from the famous whispering gallery above reveal a striking image.

Mr Harrison, 63, said: "My work symbolises the randomness of warfare – who lives and dies is often a matter of chance. Looking down you will see the poppies have another purpose – they make up an image of three children who have been involved in war.

"My work aims to reclaim the poppy as a symbol of remembrance. The poppy was originally worn in sorrow or regret, with the implication that wars should never happen again, yet today, it more usually seen as a symbol of patriotic pride in our Armed Services."

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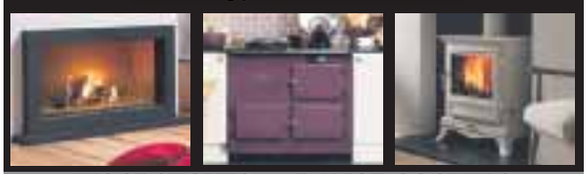
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News

COMPETITION

WIN! Four tickets to see Cinderella

A SPECTACULAR new theatre means a spectacular new pantomime – and Canterbury has both this year!

The Marlowe Theatre opened last month following a £25.6 million redevelopment. Boasting a stunning 1,200-seat auditorium, the theatre is already attracting an exciting mixture of musicals, drama, concerts, dance and opera – and, of course, pantomime.

Three of television's biggest, brightest and most talented stars will be appearing in this year's production, Cinderella.

John Partridge (Christian in EastEnders), will be lining up alongside Stephen Mulhern (presenter of Magic Numbers and Britain's Got More Talent), and comedy actress Sue Devaney. John will be Prince Charming, Stephen will be playing Buttons, and Sue is the Fairy Godmother.

Producer Paul Hendy said: "John and Stephen are two of the most talented performers in the country and we are thrilled to have them on board.

THE MARLOWE THEATRE

Our aim is to make this production the most spectacular pantomime in the country."

Cinderella will be played by Kate Quinnell, while Ben Roddy is Dandini.

The pantomime is at The Marlowe Theatre from Friday, December 2, to Sunday, January 22, 2012. For further details and to book tickets, go to marlowetheatre.com or call The Marlowe Box Office on 01227 787787.

To be in with a chance of winning win four tickets for the 7pm performance of Cinderella on Tuesday, December 6, simply answer the following question:

Which TV soap does John



HERO: John Partridge plays Prince Charming in Cinderella

Partridge star in?
1. Coronation Street
2. Neighbours
3. EastEnders

To enter text MARLOWE (space) answer, name and address and send to 64343.

Texts cost £1 plus standard network rates.

Entries received after the closing date of November 15, 2011, will not be counted but you may still be charged.

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News

CELEBRITY

Book opened the Dors

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk



PAINFUL memories of Diana Dors' funeral have been addressed in a biography from the late cinema sex symbol's son.

Often referred to as the UK's answer to Marilyn Monroe, blonde bombshell Dors appeared in numerous films, television programmes and theatre productions from the late 1940s through to her death from ovarian cancer in 1984.

Broadstairs resident Jason Dors-Lake – the son of the legendary actress – admits he struggled to cope with the loss of both his mother and then his father Alan Lake, who committed suicide five months later.

But the 41-year-old actor and musician says his contribution to the new book Connecting Dors, written by local author Niema Ash, has finally enabled him to come to terms with his grief.

"It enabled me to get a lot of stuff out in the open," he said. "When my mum died there was a sea of reporters at her funeral, and as soon as my dad started crying there was a galaxy of flashbulbs.

"It made me angry so I held back the tears because I didn't want to let them win.

"The same thing happened at my dad's funeral when I held a lot of it in.

"It really affected me and

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News

of grief for actress' son



CATHARTIC EXPERIENCE: Son Jason Dors-Lake says his involvement with the book about his mother Diana Dors has helped him through his grief



caused a lot of problems in my life because I didn't allow myself to grieve. But this book has helped me deal with a lot of stuff and I feel a lot better.

" It was a cathartic experience and I've put a lot of issues behind me because of it."

Two weeks ago it would have been Diana Dors' 80th birthday, and Mr Dors-Lake – one of the men behind the 1990s psychedelic trance group Universal Sound – said he wanted to pay tribute to his mother while the memories of her were still strong in his mind.

"I didn't realise how famous she was growing up," he said. "She always had plenty of time for me and was just like any other mum.

"The only difference was people come up to her and ask for her autograph.

"I think it's important to keep the memories alive because she was a national treasure.

"I don't want her to fall into obscurity.

"People say she was the UK's answer to Marilyn Monroe but mum was around 10 years before her, so Monroe was the USA's answer to Diana Dors.

"I also wanted to right the wrongs of other books that have been written about her.

"There are a lot that don't really hit the nail on the head and are a bit tacky."

■ **Connecting Dors – The Legacy of Diana Dors is available now online at www.niemaash.com.**

■ **For more news and sport see www.yourthanet.co.uk.**

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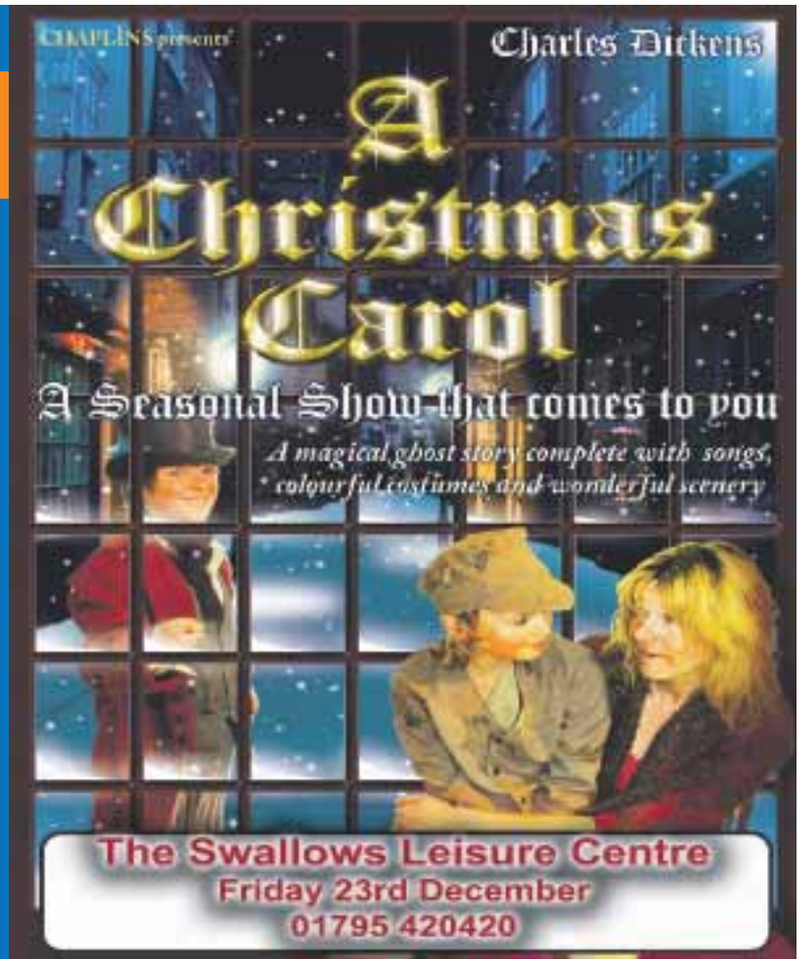


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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Picture: RODNEY FOSTER ARCHIVE



DOGFIGHT: One of the illustrations from Colonel Rodney Foster's diary shows an air battle over Kent

Story of the real Dad's Army finally revealed

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

LUFTWAFFE leader Hermann Goering spent a summer in Hythe and liked the place so much he ordered his bombers to avoid attacking the town – so he could live in Saltwood Castle after a Nazi invasion.

This is just one of the tales told in The Real Dad's Army, an account by Colonel Rodney Foster who retired to the town after military service and joined the local Home Guard in 1940.

His real life tales mirror the BBC TV comedy show which details the blundering antics of Captain Mainwaring and his Walmington-on-Sea platoon.

The newly unearthed journal, sold at an Exeter car boot sale, has lifted the lid of the real Home Guard. And in some parts it makes the antics of the cast of the TV show look positively professional as it features a string of incidents that could have come straight from its scripts.

Foster, who died in 1962, was a platoon commander based in Saltwood and his journal reveals elderly volunteers not going on operations in the dark, bickering among officers, and men caught sleeping on guard duty.

It also tells of village hall training exercises with chairs piled together to make trenches and poor eyesight meaning shooting practice was ineffectual.

But the book also shows the commitment of the volunteers who were ready to put their lives on the line – as well as day-to-day life in wartime Kent.



MOVING IN: Hermann Goering hoped to live at Saltwood Castle

Anne Kingston is Foster's great niece. "This is a wonderful piece of family history for us and a great document of a time gone by," she said.

"Following Rodney's death house clearers went into his property in Devon and stripped it bare. I thought all my family memories had been destroyed.

"But then I was contacted by antique dealer Shaun Sewell, who'd seen the diaries for sale on eBay. He said he'd like to turn them into a book and I gladly gave permission. We met and he handed over the diaries and it was very emotional. It was completely wonderful, especially after I though my family history had all been lost.

"I was only seven when Rodney died but I remember him as being quite a character."

In wartime diaries from military personnel were officially discouraged in case they fell into enemy hands.

But this volume has emerged to throw fresh light on a time of crisis which saw Kent in the frontline during the early years of World War Two.

The book pays tribute to brave men who would have undoubtedly resisted German troops to the fullest of their ability.

But it also shows some of their decidedly amateurish nature such as during a mock invasion exercise at night when some of the older men declined to take part because they were frightened of going out in the dark.

On one occasion a pair of young volunteers were sent to guard a waterworks at night but fell asleep, while on another exercise the unit was supposed to clear a wood of German parachutists but two of the men just chatted to each other.

Foster, who was a lieutenant colonel in the Indian Army, joined the Home Guard at the start of the war and by 1942 was promoted to major, commanding 560 men.

In 1943 he quit to become an air raid warden – just like Captain Mainwaring's rival William Hodges (Bill Pertwee).

Foster, who was 80 when he died, wrote eight volumes of his experiences.

Antiques dealer Mr Sewell from Northumberland identified him after buying the diary and Penguin has published an abridged version.

He said: "I paid just short of £900 for it and I had my doubts as to whether that was money well spent. But when I saw what I had obtained it was beyond my wildest hopes."

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OPINION

Stand shoulder to shoulder

As Remembrance Day draws near, KCC chairman Cllr Paulina Stockell says there are still plenty of reasons to wear your poppy with pride

NINETY years ago car tax discs were introduced, the second female MP entered Parliament, and the British Legion held the first official Poppy Appeal.

So much has changed in the past nine decades, but the admiration and respect for our troops, past and present, and the Royal British Legion is as strong as it's ever been.

Last Thursday, I hosted the launch of the Poppy Appeal in Kent at County Hall and marked the Legion's 90th anniversary.

It was very well supported, with dignitaries from across the county coming along to show their backing. Ninety poppies were tied to the front of the building and the Sutton Valence Combined Cadet Force donned their uniforms to present the first poppies.

I was joined by four veterans who had seen active service in countries including the Falklands, Iraq and Northern Ireland. They were inspirational gentlemen, each with their own memories of serving Queen and country, each with their own story of how the British Legion had supported them.

One of the veterans, Fred Turner, served for more than 25 years and received Legion support on two occasions.

It helped him claim compensation for hearing damage back in 1992 and 17 years later, when times were tough, the Legion helped him buy a new cooker, provided a table so the family could eat together, installed a fire in the living room, and a laid a new stair carpet.

This year's appeal is about standing shoulder to shoulder with our brave Armed Forces, at a time when there's an ever-increasing need for welfare support. Last year, the good people of Kent raised more than £1.3 million – a record amount.

The Legion hopes to exceed that total this year, which is why I urge you to donate to the appeal and wear your poppy with pride.

In 2010, the Royal British Legion, here in Kent, completed 1,120 cases and expects that to rise to 1,300 this year.

The economic climate has fuelled demand for assistance. Men and women who served in war-torn countries are coming to the Legion for help with homes they've lost or are about to lose. A sad statistic is that six per cent of all homeless people are our ex-service men and women.

You may remember a recent incident where an ex-serviceman suffering from post traumatic stress disorder was found living in a tent with his wife.

They had been separated from their children during a difficult time. The Royal British Legion stepped in with a deposit, advance rent and household goods. This helped the couple to put their family back together.



Veterans from WWII to present conflicts are helped by the Legion

Veterans from World War Two through to present day conflicts are supported by the Legion. Across the country more than 16,000 of those who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have received direct financial support.

The Legion spends £1.4 million a week providing welfare to serving and ex-service people, young and old, and their families.

The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month will be marked on Friday.

Wherever you are, I hope you will take a moment to pause and remember those brave men and women who gave their lives for the freedom we enjoy today. Let's stand shoulder to shoulder for them.

■ **Cllr Paulina Stockell is chairman of Kent County Council.**

KOS COMMENT

Is funding success a sign of new thinking?

BUSINESS leaders and politicians have grown used to seeing the bulk of Government investment pass Kent by on its inevitable route north.

While that may still be the case given that just seven South East bids were approved in the latest round of Regional Growth Fund hand-outs, it's fantastic that one of the largest in the country will benefit east Kent to the tune of £40 million.

Contrary to what some may believe, Kent is not entirely prosperous and has several areas of severe deprivation.

At last those in power are finally waking up to reality.

Don't mimic Mario this Bonfire Night weekend

IF ROCKETS, sparklers and Catherine wheels are your thing, we hope you enjoy yourself this weekend.

Just make sure you take care if you're setting off your own fireworks. As Mario Balotelli knows only too well, they really shouldn't be used in a bathroom setting.



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A deer in Wildwood, Herne Common by Michael Smith

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KCC driven by hypocrisy

Re: KCC staff taxi bill (news, October 30).

It would seem KCC has the same attitude to road users as successive governments, in that it is always 'do as I say, not as I do'. While KCC polices treat car drivers as second class citizens by spending thousands of pounds promoting all other forms of travel, when it comes to them personally, it seems it does not apply.

Hence your revelation in last week's paper that KCC have spent £110,000 on taxis over a three-year period, also as has been recently reported, more than £65,000 on chauffeured cars in the past year.

Why do not these hypocrites not use public transport, cycle or walk, as they tell us to do?

All I am asking is for a bit of basic honesty and just admit that in most cases the car is the most convenient, cheapest and quickest option and stop using ratepayers' money to bombard us with a load of 'greenwash' propaganda.

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

PM can't keep to his word

It would seem Mr Cameron has come full circle.

He started off with talk and promises (all broken) and now he is off on the same ineffectual and useless journey.

He has proven time after time that he is not capable of keeping any promise he makes and is just making himself and the Conservatives look complete fools.

Now if he cannot deal with Nick Clegg, and it looks very much like that, then please get out of the way and let a real leader in who speaks for the people and the country.

Mr Cameron has had more than enough time to make his mark and it is not happening.

Do us a favour Mr Cameron and just go.

RE Tucker, Sheerness

NHS Trust fine is an outrage

What a PR disaster fining the Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust £50,000 largely because they could not avoid having more patients in mixed-sex wards during the difficult transfer process from K&S to the new hospital.

How can one have confidence in decisions made by the Department of Health generally when they impose such an insensitive and unfair fine which will have to be taken from patients' care?

May we hope public outrage will cause the Department of Health to think more deeply about what it is doing and ensure that patients' care and staff morale is not affected so unfairly by their action.

John V Goodfellow, Tunbridge Wells

Tories heading to an EU crisis

The Conservative meltdown starts here.

The result of the vote in the House of Commons on whether to allow a debate on possibly asking the people of this country whether they want to remain a powerless province of the EU, although it was made plain that this Government or a Labour one would not take any notice, has brough the fate of Kent's MPs into sharp focus.

Michael Fallon has arrogantly sought to prevent MPs discussing the issue and doubtless feels the voters of Swanley and Sevenoaks will vote him back whatever he does 'because I am a Conservative,' even though the majority of Kent people who want us to leave the EU – 67 per cent according to the most recent ITV poll – is a majority he could never achieve.

The attitude of Kent's MPs for marginal seats is even more interesting. Much has been made of Adam Holloway voting for the measure – secure in the knowledge that a democratic vote on EU membership will never be tolerated – but needs to be understood in the context that his parliamentary agent, Janice Small, has defected to Ukip and there was a huge swing to Ukip in the Meopham by-election, as reported in last week's issue.

Gareth Johnson in Dartford is even more vulnerable as Dartford is usually a Labour seat, and it is hard to understand why he has defied his own constituencey party, and the voters of Dartford, to vote against the debate prompted by a public petition; a mechanism set up by his own Government. The Tory vote is switching to Ukip faster than the Labour vote, which is why they lost the General Election and have to form a coalition, so I can only conclude that Mr Johnson has lost it: and I do not just mean his seat after the Gerneral Election.

How about returning some powers from MPs to the people?

Quentin Williamson Dartford

Destruction of a legacy

"Penny for the Guy?" the boy asked as I answered my door to an impoverished pre-teen child with a large teddy bear dressed as Guy Fawkes.

At first I had to do a double-take to verify the age of my caller. To the best of my knowledge, the boy was too young to join the Young Conservatives or do a house-to-house collection for subscriptions from lapsed members of the Conservative Party like me; yet in committing himself to repealing the 1701 Act of Settlement David Cameron has succeeded where Guy Fawkes failed in destroying parliamentary democracy and effectively killing our Protestant monarch. Did the boy really say "Penny for the Guy?" or did he say "Your overdue subscription to David Cameron's Conservative Party please."

Amidst all the hullabaloo surrounding David Cameron's latter-day impersonation of Guy Fawkes, let us not forget that it was godly James I – whom the original Guy Fawkes sought to kill – who commissioned the publication of the Authorised Version of the Bible in 1611, whilst 63 years to the day after our miraculous deliverance from the Gunpowder Plot in 1605 William, Prince of Orange (later William III) landed in Torbay and secured the Protestant religion and the liberties of England in the Glorious Revolution of 1688-89 and the Battle of the Boyne in 1690: a legacy which David Cameron now looks set to destroy, to the detriment of us all.

Christopher Luke
Former secretary, Friends of Ulster Loyal Orange Lodge 1688 (House of Commons), Royal Tunbridge Wells

Giving a voice to our girls

On October 25 Girlguiding UK launched the latest Girls' Attitudes Survey, a nationwide survey of girls aged 7-21 – not just those involved in guiding – on a wide range of issues.

The survey, which is now in its third year, has highlighted some interesting findings about girls' lives. For example, more than half of girls aged 11-21 are angry adults have damaged the environment.

Guiding is important in giving girls and young women a voice. In my group of 14-26-year-olds we often discuss body image, the pressures that might be experienced at school and ambitions. Girlguiding UK's youth panel Advocate has given me the opportunity to share the views of my group with a national panel through which action can be taken.

There is so much second-guessing about young women, so I encourage anyone who is interested in finding out the reality to visit www.girlguiding.org.uk/girlsattitudes.

Rachel Sloan
Assistant guider, Guiding Kent West

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA ...WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS

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Edited by **Adam Aiken**



How does this 8pc interest rate work?



TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC

Q I have savings with Nationwide and Natwest, but they pay less than 3pc interest. However, First Direct is advertising 8pc. I am not familiar with First Direct, so is it safe? How can it offer so much interest?

A First Direct (08456 100 100) is owned by HSBC, so it is at least as safe as any major bank, and your savings are guaranteed up to £85,000 by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. An 8pc yield is very attractive, but there are strings attached. The account is for regular savers, paying in between £25 and £300 per month. This limits the maximum interest to about £156 over a year. And the regular savings must be transferred from a separate current account that you open. So the bank is paying over the odds on your regular savings in order to win your current account business. This is fair enough, of course, but the First Direct regular saver account is not a substitute for the sort of lump sum savings account that will accept a mixture of amounts at irregular intervals.

Q My bank suspended my Visa debit card for 48 hours when I tried to join an online bingo site. I was made to feel like I did not know what I was doing, as I am an OAP. My card was reactivated only after I made five phone calls. Can the bank tell me how to behave with my own money?

A I am not going to be hasty in judging your bank, since I also receive letters from people whose elderly relatives have been tricked into giving their card details. It may be that the bank had concerns about the bingo site. That said, your money is your own and it should not take five calls and 48 hours to get your card back. If the bank cannot offer a decent explanation, complain to the ombudsman (0800 023 4567).

Q I have just won £25 from Ernie and I cannot remember the last time I won £50. Does the £50 prize still exist, please?

A The £50 prize does still exist, but in the last month for which I could trace details, there were 1.7 million £25 prizes but only 31,000 prizes of £50.

Q Have you heard of an investment company called Zopa? I found it on the internet and it appears to offer 6.8pc interest on deposits, but I cannot see that it is licensed by the Financial Services Authority. Can you say whether it is safe, please?

A Zopa (020 7580 6060) is not a bank or a building society, which means it does not need a licence from the Financial Services Authority. It acts as a middleman, channelling money from you – the investor – to a number of borrowers who have applied for a loan. Zopa is licensed to do this by the Office of Fair Trading. The 6.8pc mentioned in the company's advertisements is an average rate of interest investors currently receive. In effect, the interest you charge is up to you, and you can invest anything from £10 upwards. If someone approaches Zopa for a loan, they are checked for credit worthiness. People with a poor credit history, lots of existing debts or court judgments against them are weeded out. Everyone else is placed in one of five categories, from the safest and most dependable down to those who might have a greater risk of defaulting. If you choose only to lend to the very safest borrowers, you can expect to receive a lower rate of interest – 5.9pc in recent months. But lend to riskier borrowers and you can earn far more – perhaps 11pc. Bigger risks deserve bigger rewards. And this is the key to the whole idea. Really, you are lending money to a bunch of strangers who have been vetted by Zopa, which charges a modest commission before leaving you with your 6.8pc or whatever. Default rates are low – just 0.4pc at the top end of borrowers. And Zopa spreads your money across dozens of borrowers so if one turns into a bad debtor, the impact is minimised. But you do need to bear in mind because Zopa is outside the FSA, it is outside the Financial Services Compensation Scheme, so do not invest your life savings.

Q We have an apartment in Portugal and have a Portuguese bank account that is mainly used to pay direct debits for utilities and running costs. If this bank were to fail, would we lose all the money in our account, or is there a similar safety net to that in the UK where we would be covered for the first £50,000?

A Portugal has a compensation scheme that covers you for up to €100,000 – about £87,000 at current exchange rates. And the British safety net was improved earlier this year so you are now protected for up to £85,000.

■ **If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**



BE AWARE: While you're out enjoying Bonfire Night, could someone be trying to break into your home?

Be financially safe on Bonfire Night

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney 24 writer

HOUSEHOLDERS planning to celebrate Bonfire Night are being warned to take proper precautions or risk seeing things go off with a costly bang.

Organisers of public bonfires and fireworks displays are responsible for taking the necessary precautions – but if you are planning an event in your back garden, the onus falls on you, and it's important to make sure you are properly covered in case anything goes wrong.

It is not just your property that needs protection – although, obviously, you would do well to make sure your home insurance gives you sufficient cover should your house burn down.

You should also make sure you have adequate personal liability protection that would cover you in the unfortunate event of someone being injured by a firework or a bonfire.

Most insurance policies include personal liability cover of £2 million, but it varies between providers so read through the smallprint of your policy carefully.

More than 6,600 people are injured in firework accidents each year, with half of these injuries happening to children under 16, and if any accidents occur on your property, you could be liable for a personal injury claim.

"For those hosting a fireworks party at home, it is essential to ensure your home insurance policy is up to date and that you have adequate personal liability cover," said Peter Harrison, of Moneysupermarket.com.

"In the event of an accident such as someone getting burnt on the bonfire, you could find yourself liable for any injury or damage if you are not covered by insurance. You could find yourself facing a hefty payout.

"The same applies if you are at a friend's party and are injured by a firework, as they will need to have adequate insurance to cover any claims."

Meanwhile, Stuart Curson, head of home insurance at Direct Line, repeated advice for people to lock up their homes on Bonfire Night.

"It is easy to understand why Bonfire Night is an open invitation for burglars," he said.

"With homeowners out attending organised displays, or even just in the back garden, the noise and dark nights provide the perfect cover for thieves.

"Our statistics show that evening celebrations do tend to encourage burglars to try their luck, so homeowners should plan their home security accordingly."

New team tackles the rich tax cheats

WEALTHY tax cheats with overseas property are being targeted by a specialist HM Revenue & Customs team.

HMRC has put together a 200-strong team of investigators, comprising experts from several departments, to identify areas where rich people are avoiding and evading taxes.

Some of the first people to be targeted by this team are wealthy individuals with land and property abroad. The HMRC group is using sophisticated data-collection techniques to identify people with overseas property, before assessing whether they appear able to afford it legitimately or are declaring the correct income and gains from the property.

David Gauke, exchequer secretary to the Treasury, said: "The Government is committed to tackling tax evasion and avoidance across all areas of the economy.

"That is why we allocated HMRC £917m to reduce the tax gap over the next four years in the last spending review. This new team is part of that investment. With HMRC's increased capability and expertise, and its increasing success in tackling evasion both at home and offshore, the message is clear: there is no hiding place for tax cheats."

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Your business is our business

Bank is open for lending

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BARCLAYS has held a clinic to bolster business lending by getting small businesses to think about borrowing.

The event at the Ashford business centre was part of an overall strategy by the bank, which is emphasising it is open for business – despite a widely-held belief that high-street banks are not lending to small and medium enterprises.

Representatives of Barclays also spoke at the recent Business Week Live event, outlining its policy on requests for loans – which are vital for SMEs in the creation and preservation of jobs.

Twenty-four local business people attended the clinic and heard how Barclays was keen to talk to companies with expansion plans.

Attendees also heard from local entrepreneur Paul Baker, of Applied Accountancy, who received financial support from Barclays to buy the business premises that he had been renting.

His Kent business specialises in helping small firms with their bookkeeping, VAT, payroll and accounts across the county.

Baker said: "I was happy to share my experience of borrowing from Barclays with other local business people. The application process was quick, painless and straightforward and I had a lot of support from my business manager along the way."

The clinic was part of a national initiative and run as recent research by Barclays shows that only 15 per cent of businesses applied for borrowing in the last year, reflecting a crisis of confidence among businesses.

"The research also revealed that while only 42 per cent of businesses think they will get a business loan before they apply, 75 per cent actually succeed.

Scott Wilkins, area business manager for Barclays Business in mid-Kent, said: "My team of business managers continues to lend and across the country we approve a new loan every four minutes. But research shows that half of SMEs are still reluctant to approach their banks for finance.

"This event provided a great opportunity for businesses to gain a better understanding of the lending process and to hear from an established entrepreneur how easy they found it. I'd recommend that anyone thinking of expanding should talk to us – they might be surprised by the response."

Across the UK, Barclays lent some £7 billion in the last year and the company says four out of every five requests for loans are approved by its staff, with the major reason for refusal being insufficient guarantee that repayment schedules can be met.

Ria Barlabas, head of Barclays Business for the South East, said: "What we are looking for from businesses which need finance is as simple as a sound business plan, which indicates to us it is a viable concern. Across the UK we want to support small and medium enterprises. We are empathic and we understand their needs. There is a perception the banks are not lending money and we want to change that.

"For instance, recently there was an off-the-cuff remark from a presenter on a prime-time television show who said banks don't lend. But that is simply is not true. We are open for business. We are a bank, so we are about lending money."

■ For all the latest jobs in Kent – with more than 1,500 advertised – see our website www.jobs24.co.uk/kent



DEAL: Paul Baker, left, with Scott Wilkins, mid-Kent's Barclays area business manager

Manston calls for action on expansion

ACTION by the Government is needed to help resolve short- and long-term airport capacity issues affecting London and the South East, according to bosses at Manston airport, near Ramsgate.

In its submission to the Department for Transport's consultation on Developing A Sustainable Framework For UK Aviation, Manston has called on Wesminster to look at existing regional airports as a way of buying time for longer-term strategies to be explored.

Those in favour of expansion say that by attracting more scheduled passenger and freight airlines, it will accommodate 2.2 million passengers and 167,000 tonnes of freight a year by 2018.

And a recent economic-impact study estimated that the Thanet airport could deliver almost £65 million a year to the local economy by 2018 if its growth is realised, creating more than 2,000 jobs for east Kent and a further 1,000 in the wider economy.

However, opponents to the expansion plans say that the claimed job-creation figures are ludicrously optimistic and that any gain is nowhere the pain that would be suffered through the resultant increase in air pollution and nuisance caused by night flights.

Training flights involving aircraft performing landing manoeuvres throughout the day have also proved hugely unpopular.

"Recognising that the aviation industry is strategically important to the UK economy is to be welcomed," said Charles Buchanan, chief executive, who also outlined his views at the recent Business Week Live event.

"National policy needs to provide local planning authorities with the support they require to deliver airport development that's in the national interest. Failure to provide such a framework risks undermining the entire aviation policy and national economy.

"The key is optimising the use of existing runway capacity at regional airports across the South East to help alleviate the congestion at Heathrow and Gatwick by stimulating passenger traffic at regional airports.

"The downturn in the economy has seen a number of the smaller regional airports, including some in the South East, operate at a significant financial loss, with the real possibility that it will only be a matter of time before the industry starts to see the closure of some of them.

"Once closed, they will probably be lost forever and not replaced. The danger is that the UK may lose an important piece of infrastructure that over time would have become an essential asset to both the regional economy and the UK's air infrastructure network as a whole."

REACTION

A relaxed, laid-back place to do business

ATTENDEES at Business Week Live have praised the "laid-back atmosphere" at the Dover event that allowed them to conduct discussions and do business with others in the market place.

Sezen Zeki, of Kent Channel Chamber, which respresents businesses across Thanet, Dover and Shepway, said: "Speaking to some other exhibitors, such as Basepoint and the University of Greenwich, they tell me they found it very useful and managed to get some business and contacts out of it.

"It's interesting because the feedback was that some people got more business with the laid-back atmosphere than they did at Kent 20/20.

"So, all in all, quite well received – with lots of business-to-business going on between the exhibitors themselves."

Dave West, of Folkestone-based Gurkha Services Link, celebrated as his business card was pulled out in a random draw that won him a bottle of Champagne. He said: "Lots of people have come up to us and said 'Let's sit down and talk', so that has got to be positive."

■ HAVE YOU GOT A BUSINESS STORY? Telephone editorial on 01303 817181 or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHARITY



Poppy appeal's welcome boost from coffee firm

LYONS coffee has been produced for the first time at the United Coffee roastery in Dartford and all packs sold include a donation to The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Anne Allen, deputy mayor of Dartford, and Michelle Campbell, business development manager for The Royal British Legion, were among those who witnessed the first packs leaving the line. They celebrated over lunch with employees from the roastery.

Marcus Swift, commercial director of United Coffee UK & Ireland, said: "We're excited that the new Lyons coffee has started to run off the production line and we're delighted to raise valuable funds for a brilliant cause.

"Lyons has a long history and we're pleased to have modernised its look and taste while retaining its heritage."

The 104-year-old brand has launched with a new look and an extended range and will be hitting the shelves from November. The selection of roast and ground coffees includes three blends to suit different occasions.

COMMUNICATION

Using innovation to get your message across

MAINTAINING a local network and working with public bodies in Kent has been one reason for the success of FP Innovations, business communication specialists.

Schools and education are the biggest customers for the company, which operates across the county.



PRESENTING: Steve Reynolds

"We are a part of the local business community and our major market is Kent," said chief executive Steve Reynolds, who admitted the market had been slow but said his company was continuing successfully as a result of demand for its services.

He said: "We have completed many projects of all sizes for clients in the South East. We can supply all forms of presentation equipment, including digital signage and customer information touch-screen technology.

"Better communication and collaboration is one way businesses can be made more successful. We have been working with Kent Police at the training facility in Maidstone and received a bounce with demand from the county's education services.

"We also offer a wide range of boardroom and training-room furniture and have facilities to create custom furniture to suit your presentation needs.

"We offer cutting edge plasma screens, projectors and state-of-the-art LCD screens that will enhance your training, teaching or company brand."





Pictures: PAUL JERREAT

ENTERPRISING: Gordon Marsden, above, met business-minded young people at Business Week Live. Pictured left, from left, are Sian Bostwick, Chloe Ainsley, Chola Adefioye, Sefika Sahalli and Samuel Flahery

MP impressed by efforts of young entrepreneurs

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

KENT'S new generation of entrepreneurs showed off their skills at Business Week Live, held at Dover Exhibition Centre last month, attracting praise for their efforts from Labour front-bencher Gordon Marsden.

The shadow minister for further education, skills and regional growth took time out from his speaking duties at the event – when he spoke of his party's plans to boost the economy – to talk to some of the young business people who had set up with the backing of the Kent Foundation, which offers mentoring and practical help.

He said: "I was very impressed with both the young people and the support they were offered by the foundation.

"It's crucial that in times like these they get that practical help. The growth we need to see in the economy doesn't just come from the cities – it also comes from clusters of smaller towns, such as Medway, where the people I spoke to based their businesses."

"Young people come to us and we match their enthusiasm with our expertise," said director Paul Barron. "We have volunteers from within the business community who offer mentoring, while we also offer practical help in fields such as banking, accountancy and the law.

"We have a competition each year that launches this month looking for business ideas from young people. The best of these are clearly thought through by our team and the person who came up with it in the first place, and the practical side of the proposal is then explored.

"What we are able to offer is the necessary experience and skills to enable young people to turn an initial idea into a viable concern."

Chloe Ainsley, 24, from Medway, has established herself as a graphic artist with her company Fusion Design.

She said: "I actually entered the competition with my business idea and got through to the final. I was assigned a mentor and now I am up and running

"Events like Business Week Live give me an opportunity to get experience of the wider business world," she said. "Things like speed networking are a great way to make new contacts."

Jewellery designer Sian Bostwick, 25, from Chatham, said: "I found out about the foundation by accident, but it helped me enormously to get started. Now, coming to shows like this helps me progress.

"I have based my business in the Nucleus Arts Centre in Medway and I'm supplying retail outlets and galleries while selling work online as well. My current jewellery collection is based on the inspiration I get from the Kent countryside.

"I am hoping to next design a range based on old fairy tales. I'd like to explore Inuit legends for inspiration."

Shola Adefioye, 28, was at the show to promote her cleaning business, SDE.

"Meeting people here has helped to motivate me a lot," she said.

Samuel Flahery and Sefika Sahalli, both 24, have set up Forages, an online homeware store.

Sahalli said: "We have only been going one month, but we've got an eclectic range of products on offer and interest is really growing."

Solicitors win recognition in national directory

LEGAL staff at Kings Hill-based Vertex Law have been praised for their professionalism in a comprehensive look at law companies.

They were rated as responsive and reliable in an independent annual survey of the legal profession.

The 2012 edition of Chambers, a national guide to lawyers and law firms, praises both individuals as well as the firm's expertise in different practice areas.

The publication is an independent annual guide to the UK's legal profession.

Rankings are assessed on criteria that include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment and other qualities clients consider relevant.

The Chambers report reads: "Vertex Law has established and maintained a strong and loyal client base by focusing on service and quality [of advice and the lawyers giving it].

"The lawyers at Vertex Law are responsive and reliable and they deliver legal services at the pace dictated by the business needs of the client."

The lawyers at Vertex Law were also described as thriving and "very responsive and pragmatic" and praised for client service and commercial awareness.

The corporate/mergers and acquisitions, banking and finance, restructuring and insolvency, technology and media, real estate and dispute resolution teams were all praised and ranked by the directory. The healthcare and food sectors were also highlighted as sectors where Vertex Law is highly active.

Trevor Carney, James Beatton and Salim Somjee (corporate/mergers and acquisitions), Irfan Baluch (IT and intellectual property), Pete Kenyon (intellectual property) and Rebecca Tinham (dispute resolution) were, in addition to their teams, also ranked as individuals and leaders in their fields.

James Beatton was also ranked as a leader in the fields of banking and finance and insolvency and restructuring.

"We are delighted with the recognition that we have received in this year's edition of Chambers," said Irfan Baluch, chief executive officer at Vertex Law.

"The impressive individual rankings awarded to our lawyers shows they are among the very best in their fields and that their hard work and dedication is appreciated by our loyal clients.

"I am also very pleased that there is such a clear endorsement for the breadth of corporate and commercial services that we offer.

"As Chambers is based on independent research and client feedback, we are all the more pleased to have performed so well. It is testament to the expertise of our staff and the service they provide."

Birds of prey are key to soaring success

Reporter **Nick Ames** finds out more about how one man's feathered friends are helping to ensure his firm flies from strength to strength

DESPITE the recession, one entrepreneur is expanding his business... and it his expertise with birds of prey that is key to his success.

Dave Green, known locally as the bird man, has been operating NBC Bird And Pest Solutions for three years – and some of his 'staff' are birds of prey.

He initially started on his own but has grown the business to employ two people from his base on the Isle of Sheppey.

The business offers the usual pest-control activities, treating wasp nests and sorting out rodent problems, and he has more than 50 contracts with companies who retain his services.

The success of the business was recognised when Green was awarded the title of Swale Small Business Of The Year 2011

But what makes his company different is his use of raptors.

Green has been breeding and flying the birds for more than 17 years and uses them to control pigeons and starlings for businesses.

He said: "It's great that I am able to combine my love of flying and breeding birds of prey with my business.

"Where a business premises is struggling with the problems caused by pigeons or starlings, I simply fly the hawks in the area at regular times for a short period.

"Although it's unusual for any of the birds to be caught, they soon decide to move on once they see the hawks.

"I have five birds that are regularly used and I have trained two of my team to be able to handle them so that we can expand our reach.

"The business is going well and we don't seem to have been badly affected by the recession. People will always need to clear pests and I believe that the level of customer service we offer has been key to our growth.

"I have also had great support from Sally Saint, my Barclays business manager, who has been there to support me all the way through."

Green is looking to expand the business further and approached Barclays for a business loan to buy another van.

Sheerness-based Saint has been Green's business manager since he started the company.

She said: "Dave has an excellent, diverse business and ambitious plans, and I have enjoyed seeing his business thrive.

"It's a pleasure to be able to support him in expanding his business further and I look forward to his continued success."



HIGH-FLIER: Bird man Dave Green uses his birds of prey to solve pest problems for businesses; he has been supported by Sally Saint, of Barclays

Mayors learn about recycling on special visit to print works

AYLESFORD Newsprint, one of the UK's leading recycled-paper mills, has hosted a visit by six Kent mayors and four of the county's council chairmen.

The purpose of the visit was to allow the group to see exactly what happens to the newspapers and magazines collected through their kerbside recycling schemes and paper banks.

During 2010, Kent district and borough councils delivered 11,000 tonnes of paper to the Aylesford paper mill. In just a week this paper will have been reprocessed into new newsprint, delivered to publishers and used to create new newspapers and other publications.

The mayors and chairmen were given a full tour of the mill, seeing the paper progress from delivery, through pulping and cleaning, to the production of new reels of newsprint ready for delivery to press centres across the UK and Western Europe.

The tour coincided with the announcement that Aylesford Newsprint had been awarded a contract by Thanet District Council for the supply of paper from the council's paper-bank scheme.

The company will manage the council's existing paper banks and deliver 17 banks to key locations such as the Palm Bay car park and Trinity Square car park.

Doug Clark, who is chairman of Thanet District Council, said: "We're really looking forward to working in partnership with Aylesford Newsprint.

"Recycling is essential and the reprocessing of paper collected at the kerbside and through paper banks is a mainstay of our service.

"Seeing where and how the paper is processed, and that it takes place so close to home, is really impressive. We're certainly doing the right thing with our paper."

Gemma Barratt, recycling operations manager at Aylesford Newsprint, said she was delighted that so many of the Kent mayors and chairmen had the taken time to visit the facility.

"Working closely with our local councils is very important for us here at Aylesford.

"It makes sense to keep recycling close at hand, not least because you can come and see for yourself what happens to your paper," she said.

"We're really pleased that the paper from Thanet District Council's paper-bank scheme will be delivered to Aylesford and look forward to helping them manage that part of their recycling process for many years to come."



CHAIN GANG: Six mayors and four county council chairmen visited Aylesford Newsprint paper mills

TECHNOLOGY

Factory to be a base for health products

A VENTURE capital organisation is to build a factory in Ashford.

Forza Group has announced that it will be using the latest technology in its development of health-supplement products such as slimming pills.

Chief executive Matt Morgan said: "Forza are delighted to announce that we will open a new cutting-edge facility in Kent.

"All of our products are made to GMP [Good Manufacturing Practice] standards and our customers can continue to expect the very best weight-loss and well-being products from Forza.

"As one of the fastest-growing health-supplement companies in the UK, this news is further evidence of our continuing success."

The company says it has a growing customer base in Germany and being close to the Channel means deliveries can arrive faster than if they were dispatched from any other part of the UK.

Additionally, Forza directors have been able to use Eurostar and Le Shuttle services for meetings in northern Europe, allowing the brand to expand into new markets.

The factory announcement follows the opening of the Fulfilment Centre at Ashford, from where Forza products are distributed to retail and trade customers in the UK and continental Europe.

With this new site, the company is able to handle the growing number of packages that are being dispatched daily. From its old Fulfilment office, it could handle 350 packages a day, but now that Forza sells trade packs and retail demand has increased, the company is committed to continuous reinvesting in its infrastructure.

Forza Group was conceived in 2005 and has gone on to develop businesses in sectors ranging from health supplements through to celebrity costume jewellery.

Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Lingfield highlights horseracing careers

By Steve Knight
steve.knight@archant.co.uk

YOUNG farmers and animal management students have enjoyed a taste of the horseracing industry thanks to a scheme by the British Horseracing Authority (BHA).

A number of inner-city farms were invited to spend a day at the races during the recent half-term holiday as part of an initiative devised by the governing body's 'Careers in Racing' department.

Among those who benefited were youngsters from Ashford Community Farm, based at the North School.

Caroline Johnson, head of the farm's Centre for Land Based Studies, said: "Students who are members of our Young Farmers' Club and study animal management were invited by the BHA to go racing at Lingfield Park, to understand how racetracks operate and to consider the opportunities available to them in racing.

"All of the students were so excited about the opportunity available to them and were particularly looking forward to watching the demonstrations, meeting industry representatives and seeing what goes on behind the scenes."

Ashford Community Farm began life as a wartime garden in the 1930s but is now a thriving school and community farm, with cattle, small animals and a vegetable plot on its one hectare site.

Most inner-city farms are community-managed projects working with people and animals to offer a powerful learning experience for the children who take part.

They exist mainly in urban areas and are created in response to a lack of access to green space combined with a desire to encourage strong community relationships and awareness of animals, horses and farming.

Michelle Douglas, industry recruitment associate at the BHA, said: "We are delighted to be able to offer such visits to a number of inner-city farms and are really excited about forming a continual relationship with them.

"Each of the racecourses involved have been extremely supportive and we are grateful for their help in creating such an opportunity for these young people."

The initiative forms part of the BHA's 'Racing Together' community strategy, which includes projects and initiatives that take place across the country, ranging from educational schemes with inner-city school children to partnerships with charities such as the Prince's Trust.

According to the governing body's website, there are some 47 different careers available in the horseracing industry including a mix of back-office and outdoor jobs.

These range from hands-on roles including stallion handlers, stud grooms and stable guards to other less obvious positions including bookmakers.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.



AND THEY'RE OFF! The BHA lists 47 different careers in the horseracing industry

Historic brewer continues search

SHEPHERD Neame is targeting unemployed people with savings or redundancy cash in an attempt to fill 20 vacant pubs in Medway.

The Faversham-based brewer says applicants should have a minimum of £10,000 to invest, but the amount they make in return depends on the size of the pub, the facilities provided and the skills they possess.

Chief executive Jonathan Neame said: "We believe tenancies offer an excellent business partnership and have a strong future. We never cease to be impressed by the enthusiasm, energy, entrepreneurial flair and retailing ingenuity of our licensees."

Pubs currently available in Medway include the Rose Inn at Rainham, the General at Sea in Chatham, the Chequers in Hoo, and the Tudor Rose in Upnor.

Tenanted operations manager Greg Wallis said: "Our tenants benefit from a complete training package and extensive and continued business and technical support.

"Each is his or her own boss, with the power to make decisions while enjoying the advice and backing of a partner with vast experience."

Hospital course for minor injuries

MEDWAY Maritime Hospital is running a minor injuries course to help emergency care nurses and paramedics develop their careers.

The course, which has been accredited by Greenwich University, costs £750 with the first starting this month.

Emergency department clinical nurse lead Inma Diaz-Alonso will lead the programme and provide most of the theory, but all senior sisters in the emergency department will provide support and mentoring for candidates.

Inma said: "If nurses or ambulance crew members wanted to take part in a course to enable them to become a nurse practitioner, they would generally have to go to a university where they would be taught the theory.

"Now they can come here and alongside the theory they will also get hands-on practice."

The six-month course consists of 30 hours of taught theory, 150 hours of supervised practice, and 50 hours of self-directed study.

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Canterbury College leads the way with new free courses iPhone app

CANTERBURY College has become the first in Kent to launch an app for the iPhone and iPad.

It features an interactive guide to courses, updates on news and events, as well as a useful map of the college's new multi-million pound campus.

Using the new app, students, parents and local businesses can now search the range of courses on offer and apply for places directly from their mobile phone.

The software was a zero-cost project developed by the college's IT and marketing teams, and can be downloaded for free by searching 'Canterbury College' on iTunes.

Business and associated services director Mark Hill said: "This is an exciting time for Canterbury College.

"In these modern times people choose to communicate via a range of new digital methods and we are continuing to adapt to ever-changing technologies.

"We hope our app will be another useful bridge between the college and learners.

"So whether you are a school-leaver considering your next step, an adult thinking about returning to education or an employer with training needs, you should download the Cant-Col app to access all the information you would ever need."

The college was also among the first in the region to join Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.

Chef Biswal on hand at suite opening

RESPECTED chef Dev Biswal served up a treat for students when he officially opened the Chatham and Clarendon Grammar School Federation's stunning new food technology suite in Ramsgate.

The special guest gave Year 10 students a mini masterclass in the skills that earned his Ambrette Restaurant in Margate a Michelin Guide recommendation among a host of other impressive accolades.

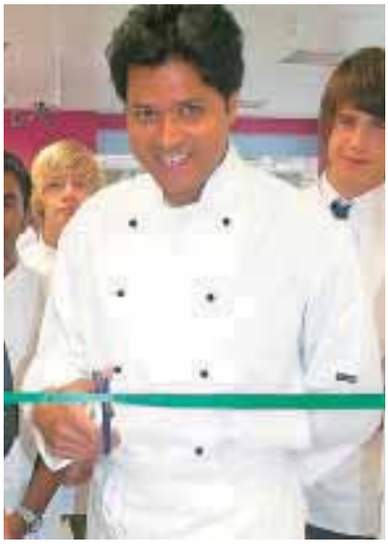
He also talked to students about the importance of nutrition, healthy eating and hygiene, while sharing his creative drive and passion for cooking fine food.

Food technology teacher Sam Morgan said: "Cooking has such a high profile these days thanks to our fantastic food festival at Broadstairs, television programmes like Masterchef and Come Dine With Me, and local celebrity chefs like Gary Rhodes and Richard Phillips.

"Our new food technology suite means students on both sites – at Chatham Street and Clarendon Gardens – now have the opportunity to explore their creative culinary skills as part of their studies using local and fresh produce.

"Dev Biswal is recognised as one of the top chefs in the UK. We are extremely proud that he opened our new suite and then worked with our Year 10 students to give them advice and a lesson they will always remember."

The new suite features 10 workstations with state-of-the-art facilities, preparation areas, and storage facilities.



MASTER CHEF: Dev Biswal opens the new suite

Mr Biswal described it as "a fantastic space for students to explore cooking skills and have fun with their creativity".

He added: "A resource like this in any school is an excellent way to start young people on the pathway to becoming passionate about their food skills."

Mr Biswal set the youngsters a task of creating a simple meal that included steamed rice, baked chicken and spinach stir fry, with the best efforts winning family invites to the Ambrette.

He told them: "Eating fresh and cooking fresh is vital. Stay away from the processed and packaged food mentality if you can."

Cathedral the setting for module exploring the history of our books

UNIVERSITY of Kent students are reading up on their book history with a new module based inside historic Canterbury Cathedral.

The module 'Caxton to Kindle: The History of the Book' is being offered as part of the university's master's degrees in English and history.

During the seminars in the cathedral library, students are examining some of the earliest printed books with the help of experienced staff like librarian Karen Brayshaw.

Module leader Dr Paddy Bullard, lecturer in English and American literature at the university, said: 'This is the first time we have run a module like this, giving a unique insight into the cathedral's extraordinary collection of 30,000 rare and beautiful books.

"Our students are able to see for themselves some of the first English books published by Caxton, an amazing copy of the Nuremberg Chronicle and fragments of one of Guttenberg's Bibles."

After five weeks' practical research in the library, students will move to the Canterbury campus to focus on the latest digital resources for the study of book history.

These include new electronic archives of works by major authors such as Jonathan Swift, Jane Austen and William Blake, bringing the story of books from the 15th century up to the present day.

Planning for the future



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1 Part-time position available
Closing date for applications - Friday 18 November 2011

Qualifications: Registered Nurse 1st Level
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To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Sue Bowe - Outpatient Sister or Carolyn Flegg - Staff Nurse
on 01843 234555 Ext: 63425

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Wing, QEQM Hospital, Ramsgate Road, Margate, Kent CT9 4BG
Telephone: 01843 234556
Fax: 01843 296333
E-mail: jo.edwards@thespencerwing.com

The Spencer Wing is an equal opportunity employer
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If you like working as a team and have a 'can do' attitude we look forward to hearing from you.
Salary circa £23K (depending on experience)
Experience and references are an absolute must.
If this sounds like you - please reply to Anna at thekingsarmsboxley@yahoo.co.uk and attach a c.v.

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We are looking for a Commis Chef that is passionate about food and cooking, enjoys the buzz of being busy, has a Good level of spoken English, Determined and Enthusiastic and happy to work as part of a team. To be committed to work hard as part of our kitchen team which will include weekends and bank holidays
Previous experience in a similar role and/or NVQ level 1/2 or similar qualification in Food Preparation
Ideally CIEH Level 2 Food Hygiene, college leaver also welcome to apply.

Contact information
If you are interested in applying for this position, please forward your CV and covering letter to Jemma Wilkins, HR Manager at Jwilkins@qhotels.co.uk or apply online at www.qhotels.co.uk

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Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

Closing Date: 25th November 2011

For further details and a job description, please contact Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 3SP (Tel: 01634 338236).

The John Townsend Trust
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All positions are subject to an enhanced CRB disclosure check, satisfactory references, proof of qualifications and a fully checkable work history.

CVs will not be accepted in application for the post.

Closing date: **25th November 2011**

For application packs please contact the HR Department
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We are a highly successful and ambitious 11-18 school. Recently rebuilt, the Learning Trust offers an exciting opportunity to teach in a collegiate atmosphere where our motto "Always Learning, Learning All Ways" applies to everyone.

Situated within easy reach of London and Ebbsfleet, the school has a strong sense of community and a belief in the values of self and social responsibility.

Applications are invited from experienced teachers for:

AST or Aspiring AST
in each of the following subjects -
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To join our team developing outstanding learning with staff and students (Salary subject to current status and grade. Qualified AST range 5 to 9)

Join our team of examination invigilators who support the monitoring of both internal and public examinations. Full training given. Hours by agreement.

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Application form and further information available on request or on school website (www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk). Applications to **Personnel, at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ** Tel: **01474 831020**
or e:mail **personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk**

Closing date for applications :
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Interviews provisionally scheduled:
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£19,621- £22,221 per annum - 41 hours per week (including split shifts and weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

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Part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students during late or early shifts each weekend.

£4,994 - 15 hours per week, (weekends only) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS
As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends.

£10,079 plus 10% per annum – 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

***For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which there would be extra payment.**

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, practical, flexible and responsible with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 12 noon Friday 25th November 2011

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PUBLIC/ COMMUNITY APPOINT

Northfleet School for Girls
CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING TRUST

We are a highly successful and ambitious 11-18 school. Recently rebuilt, the Learning Trust offers an exciting opportunity to teach in a collegiate atmosphere where our motto "Always Learning, Learning All Ways" applies to everyone.

Situated within easy reach of London and Ebbsfleet, the school has a strong sense of community and a belief in the values of self and social responsibility.

Applications are invited from experienced teachers for:

Subject Leader of Geography (TLR2 - £6,197 pa)

within our Physical World Domain which delivers Science, Geography and DT
A strong programme of visits and challenge events exists.

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Closing date for applications : **18 November 2011**
Interviews provisionally scheduled: **week commencing 28 November 2011**

Northfleet School for Girls
CO-OPERATIVE LEARNING TRUST

Learning Support Assistant

31.25 hours per week -Term Time only

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Previous applicants need not apply

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Join our team of examination invigilators who support the monitoring of both internal and public examinations. Full training given. Hours by agreement.

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The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.
Closing date for applications: **11 November 2011**

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We are looking for knowledgeable and experienced candidates to deliver CACHE Child Care and Health and Social Care programmes at various levels. The successful candidates will have the ability to motivate students and be flexible and adaptable in their teaching methods. The applicants must have a relevant vocational/academic qualification and have, or be willing to work towards, a teaching qualification. Recent industry experience would be advantageous.

Closing date: 12 noon, Wednesday 16 November 2011

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults, therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.

MidKent College



We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

TRAINER ASSESSOR EARLY YEARS

18.5 hours per week, all year

To train and assess learners in the workplace to achieve Diploma's and Apprenticeship Programmes in a wide variety of Early Years settings.

TRAINER ASSESSOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

18.5 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

To train and assess learners in the workplace to achieve Diploma's and Apprenticeship Programmes in a wide variety of environments of Health and Social Care.

Salary Scale: £9,500 - £11,500 plus achievement incentives

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052

Closing date for the post: Wednesday 9th November 2011

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RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

LECTURER EARLY YEARS

FIXED TERM UNTIL 13TH JULY 2012

A lecturer is required to deliver high quality education and training, to support students and trainees effectively (including individual and group tutorials), and to further develop the Early Years curriculum.

LECTURER IN PLASTERING

To raise aspirations, develop skills and deliver quality across a range of courses in the Programme Area

Salary Scale: £25,589 - £30,205 for 37 hours per week, all year

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'. If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: Wednesday 9th November 2011

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THANET COLLEGE

RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

LECTURER IN MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS

37 hours per week, all year

Salary: £25,589 - £30,205

The successful candidate will have a specialist ability to deliver a high quality learning experience in the Maintenance Operations area of construction, combined with a demonstrable capacity to cover ideally two of the following areas, Carpentry, Painting and Decorating, Brickwork, Plastering, Electrical or Plumbing.

Closing date: 16 November 2011

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About us' then 'Staff Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/SW/0419/2011 - Proposed development at SWEEEP Kuusakoski Ltd, Gas Road, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 2QB

SWEEEP Kuusakoski Ltd is applying to Kent County Council (as the Waste Planning Authority) for planning permission for a change of use of land to undertake Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Recycling activities and construction of storage facilities.

You may view this application at Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent, ME10 3HT.

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

KCC/MA/0452/2011 - Proposed development at Staplehurst School, Gybbon Rise, Staplehurst, Kent, TN12 0LZ

Staplehurst School is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for new metal gate to replace dilapidated timber gate. The proposed development is within the Staplehurst Conservation Area and is likely to affect its character and/or appearance, and also affects the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 6JQ.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 6 November 2011

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

11/03226/FUL **Sheerdrop Cottage Penshurst Road, Bidborough**
- Demolition of existing dwelling, garage and barn and erection of 3 bed three storey house (LB)

11/03197/FUL **Court Royal Eridge Road, Broadwater**
- Removal and replacement of all 5 no. first floor level balconies and 8 no. ground floor patios/decks. The works will involve removing the existing timber balustrades and deck construction and replacement with coated aluminium railings with glass infill panels (CA)

11/03167/FUL **E C Wilkes & Son Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Removal of flat roof connecting main building to adjacent outbuilding and conversion of outbuilding to form a 1 bed residential unit on two levels (CA) (LB)

11/03168/LBC **E C Wilkes & Son Stone Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Removal of flat roof connecting main building to adjacent outbuilding and conversion of outbuilding to form a 1 bed residential unit on two levels (LB)

11/02934/LBC **Solomons Rye Road, Hawkhurst**
- Listed building consent - alter style of previously approved casement window to the new extension. Move downstairs wc to other side of utility room to benefit from opening window (LB)

11/03102/FUL **Tesco Rye Road, Hawkhurst**
- Alterations to car park layout and installation of 2 car park barriers (CA)

11/03206/HOUSE **Woodsden Barn Water Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Single storey extension on east elevation (PROW) (LB)

11/03207/LBC **Woodsden Barn Water Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Single storey extension on east elevation (LB)

11/03235/FULMJ **Hawkhurst Station Business Park Gills Green, Hawkhurst**
- Variation of condition 26 of TW/09/03631 to allow the relocation of the signal box to Robertsbridge Station (MAJOR)

11/03245/FUL **Dulcet House Cranbrook Road, Hawkhurst**
- Change of use from sui generis to A1/A3/A5 (CA) (LB)

11/03258/LBC **Conghurst Cottages Conghurst Lane, Hawkhurst**
- Listed building consent - repairs to include replacement of gutters, opening lights and frames, down pipes and replacement of missing opening light (LB)

11/03244/LBC **Coggers Farm House The Broadway, Lamberhurst**
- Listed building consent - chimney cowl (LB)

11/03266/FUL **3 Eden Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- The refurbishment of the 17th century range and the reinstatement of the 18th century stack (all levels), basement cellar and coach house and the integration of these elements with a new two storey building frontage together with the provision of an underground double garage (linked to the 18th century cellar), to provide a five bedroom detached dwelling. Following the demolition and removal of the late Victorian façade and the two storey 19th century frontage and part of the 18th century extensions sited behind the facade (CA)

11/03269/CAC **3 Eden Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Conservation Area Consent - demolition and removal of the late victorian facade and the two storey 19th century frontage and part of the 18th century extensions sited behind the facade (CA)

11/03227/HOUSE **23 Holden Road Southborough, Southborough North**
- Retrospective - replacement of rear door and two rear windows and two side windows (CA)

11/03198/FUL **Holmewood House School Barrow Lane, Speldhurst**
- Retrospective - Spoil mound in the southwest corner of the school (maximum 20m x 50m) (LB)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

Jim Kehoe
Head of Planning Services
Town Hall Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 05 November 2011



Planning applications

CANTERBURY CITY COUNCIL

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//11/01501/FUL: 49A Castle Street, Canterbury, CT1 2PY Change of use of single-storey outbuilding from storage to self-contained studio flat with associated external alterations. **Applicant: Mr Robert Leydon** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01686/FUL: 1 Pound Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2BZ Change of use from music school to six hotel apartments and an education room and erection of two glazed extensions at second-floor level. **Applicant: Charles Lambie Self Invested Personal Pensions** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01687/LB: 1 Pound Lane, Canterbury, CT1 2BZ Internal and external alterations and erection of two glazed extensions at second-floor level. **Applicant: Charles Lambie Self Invested Personal Pensions** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01689/FUL: 5 Roper Road, Canterbury, CT2 7EH Single-storey extension to form new garden room. **Applicant: Miss C Duggan** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01716/FUL: 25 Harbour Street, Whitstable, CT5 1AH Addition of roof terrace to rear of flats. (Retrospective application). **Applicant: Mr and Mrs V Jones** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01724/FUL: Bellflower Mews, Canterbury, CT1 3BL Erection of cycle store. **Applicant: Dover Heights Limited** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01726/FUL: First Floor Flat, 3 Brunswick Square, Herne Bay, CT6 5QE Replacement in UPVC of all windows, bargeboards, fascias and gutters. **Applicant: Mr L Hodder** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01727/FUL: 10 Longport, Canterbury, CT1 1PE Application for a new planning permission to replace planning permission CA/07/1781/CAN for erection of six apartments and the conversion of outbuilding to one dwelling (resubmission) in order to extend the time limit for implementation. **Applicant: The Swallow Group** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01744/FUL: Whyte Gables, The Leas, Chestfield, CT5 3LB Demolition of existing garage and erection of two-storey side and first-floor rear extensions and replacement garage to side with accommodation over. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs I Hatten** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01745/FUL: 105 Regent Street, Whitstable, CT5 1JN Replacement windows to front of dwelling. **Applicant: Mr Rigby** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01764/ADV: 12-13 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JE Non-illuminated projecting sign. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: Crew Clothing Co** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01765/LB: 12-13 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JE Non-illuminated projecting sign and bracket. **Applicant: Crew Clothing Co** Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA//11/01766/ADV: 3 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2JH Replacement externally illuminated fascia and projecting signs. **Applicant: Presto Retail Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//11/01803/LB: 49A Castle Street, Canterbury, CT1 2PY Internal and external alterations associated with change of use to residential. **Applicant: Mr Robert Leydon** Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.control@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 28 November 2011**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

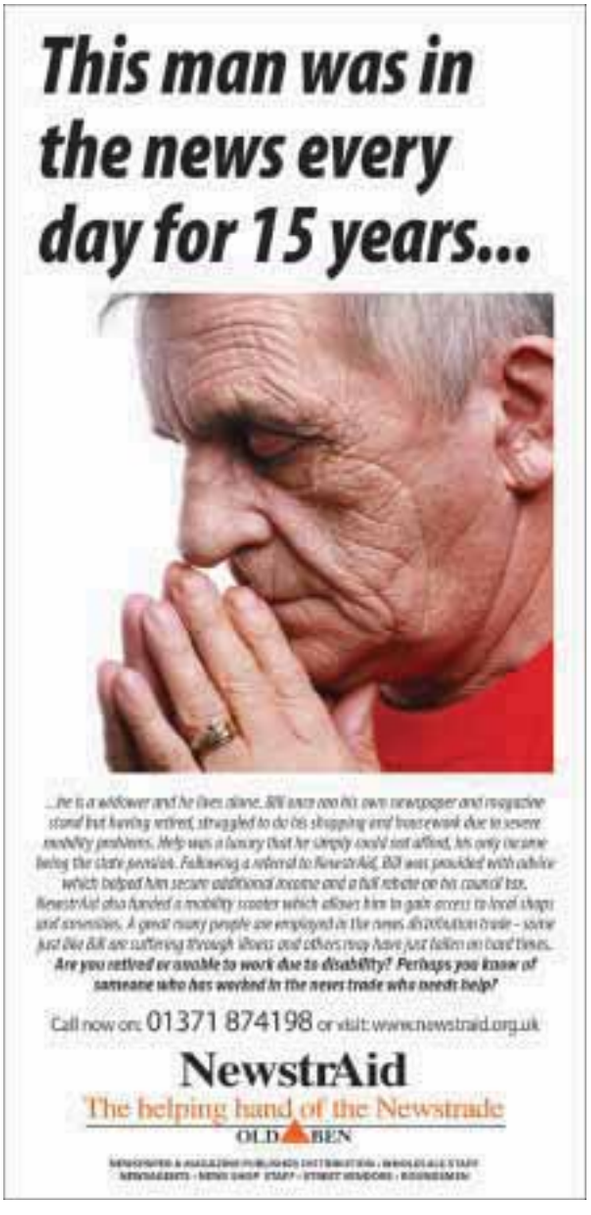
Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 4 November 2011

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PLANNING

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/1513/S - EXHURST MANOR, FRITTENDEN ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0DL - Replacement of 2No. existing windows with a door and French doors. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1619/S - 1, RANDALLS ROW, HIGH BANKS, LOOSE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0EG - An application for listed building consent to remove modern stud partition wall between bathroom and small room on first floor and create new bathroom. Block in present doorway to rear rooms but leave door frame in situ on hall side. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1655/S - LITTLE BOCKINGFORD, CRIPPLE STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6DN - Removal of flat roof area over kitchen and replacement with pitched roof. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1667/S - FORSTERS COTTAGE, WATER LANE, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0SG - An application for listed building consent for replacement of existing roof light with dormer window (retrospective). **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1672/N - 31, BREWER STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1RU - Conversion of 3 flats to 6 flats including single storey rear extension, external alterations and alterations and additions to roof and fenestration. **Reason: 2**

MA/11/1686/S - LAND TO THE REAR OF BLUETOPS, WALNUT TREE LANE, LOOSE, KENT, ME15 9RG - Erection of a detached dwelling with new access and car parking. **Reason: 2, 7**

MA/11/1689/S - EWELL MANOR, EWELL LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0NG - An application for a new planning permission to replace an extant planning permission MA/08/2021 (Conversion of barn, cart lodge and bothy into a single dwelling and annexe, stock shed and cattle shed into 2 (no) holiday lets with associated parking lodge, reinstatement of former gardens, tennis courts and installation of new swimming pool and reinstatement existing and former entrances). **Reason: 1, 7**

MA/11/1705/S - HM YOUNG OFFENDERS INSTITUTE, EAST SUTTON PARK, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3DF - An application for listed building consent for the removal of the existing gymnasium roof finishes and rooflights, and the installation of new standing seam zinc roof with rooflight. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1708/S - HUNTON VILLAGE HALL, WEST STREET, HUNTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0RS - Installation of solar PV panels to southern roof slope. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1714/S - LINDEN HOUSE, BROAD STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3AJ - Erection of first floor rear extension. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/1715/S - LINDEN HOUSE, BROAD STREET, SUTTON VALENCE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 3AJ - An application for listed building consent for the erection of first floor rear extension. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1716/N - HOMELANDS, LENHAM HEATH ROAD, LENHAM HEATH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 2BS - Lean-to extension to existing agricultural building. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1717/S - LAND AT, CHURCH LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, KENT - Change of use of agricultural land to form car parking to serve All Saints Church. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1721/S - 4, HAVIKER STREET, COLLIER STREET, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9RG - Erection of shed (amended scheme to planning permission MA/11/1055). **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1723/S - TANNER OAST, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9ND - Conversion of building into two residential units with associated works including demolition of existing barn and cold store building, removal of lean-to and erection of two double garages. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/1724/S - TANNER OAST, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9ND - Listed building consent for the conversion of building into two residential units with associated works including demolition of existing barn and cold store building, removal of lean-to and erection of two double garages. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1737/N - 249, BOXLEY ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 2AS - First floor extension to existing garage/outbuilding. **Reason: 1**

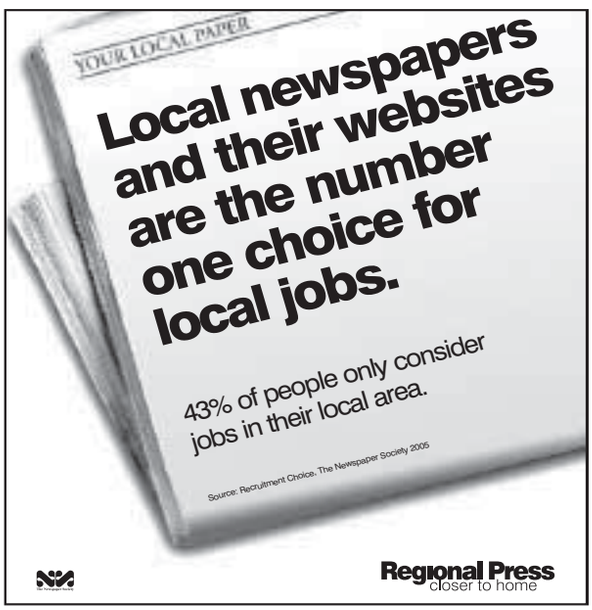
MA/11/1799/N - 42 - 44, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PS - Amendment to flat roof to rear extension approved under Listed Building Consent MA/10/2169 (Listed Building Consent for the conversion of building from offices to restaurant, demolition of existing rear extension and erection of new single storey rear extension and internal alterations). **Reason: 3**

MA/11/1807/N - 42 - 44, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PS - Amendment to flat roof to rear extension approved under Planning Permission MA/10/2168 (Conversion of building from offices to restaurant and erection of new single storey rear extension). **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **20th November 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 6th November 2011





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PROW - BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW306 IN THE PARISH OF KINGSNORTH

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH AW306) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath AW306, between (NGR TR 012 390) the entrance to Furley Park Primary School and (NGR TR 013 389) at the junction with Public Bridleway AW325 (near Poppy Mead) from 28th October 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 24th December 2011.

The path is to be closed to enable the completion of surface improvements and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is via the entrance to Furley Park Primary School, Reed Crescent, Bluebell Road and Poppy Mead and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Colin Finch

PROW - BOROUGH OF DARTFORD

NOTICE OF THE EXTENSION OF AN ORDER TEMPORARILY CLOSING PUBLIC FOOTPATHS DS1, DS30 & DS3 IN THE PARISH OF SWANSCOMBE AND GREENHITHE.

(PUBLIC FOOTPATHS DS1, DS30 & DS3) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

The Secretary of State for Transport has directed that the Order made by Kent County Council on the 25th April 2011, the effect of which was to prohibit all traffic from Public Footpaths DS1, DS30 & DS3 has been extended until 24th April 2013 or until the completion of the works whichever is the earlier.

The paths are closed between NGR TQ 595 754 and NGR TQ 595 751, a distance of approximately 640 metres.

The alternative route is through Ingress Park along Duncannon Place and Portland Place to rejoin DS1 at the riverside and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Olivia Bonham

PROW - DISTRICT OF SEVENOAKS

NOTICE OF MODIFICATION ORDER WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981 DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT FOR THE COUNTY OF KENT

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (FOOTPATH SR737 AT SUNDRIDGE) DEFINITIVE MAP MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order was made on 11 October 2011 under section 53 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. If confirmed, it will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by adding a Footpath (SR737) with a width of 1 metre which commences on New Road adjacent to Ridgewood Cottage at NGR TQ 4815 5436 (Point A) and runs in a Westerly direction for 79 metres to connect with Public Bridleway SR259 to NGR TQ 4807 5346 (Point B). Between points A and B on the Order Plan.

All distances are approximate, all directions are general.

A copy of the Order and Map may be seen free of charge during normal office hours at the offices of Sevenoaks District Council, Argyle Road, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1HG or at the Kent County Council, Countryside Access Service, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may also be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Matthew Garvey at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 19 December 2011. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no such representations or objections are duly made to the Order (or to any part of it), or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council, instead of submitting the Order to the Secretary of State (or part of it if the Authority has by Notice to the Secretary of State so elected under paragraph 5 of schedule 15 to the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981) may itself confirm the Order (or that part of the Order). If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment (in whole or in part), any representations or objections which have been duly made and not been withdrawn will be sent with it.

PROW - BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

NOTICE OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER HIGHWAYS ACT 1980 THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WT265 (PART), PADDOCK WOOD) PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2011

The above Order, made under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980 will divert the entire width of that length of Public Footpath WT265 which commences at NGR TQ 6915 4325 (point A) at its junction with the unaffected length of Public Footpath WT265 and runs in a west north westerly, westerly, west north westerly thence north westerly direction for 385 metres to its connection with Knowle Road at NGR TQ 6880 4338 (point B) and will provide a new length of Public Footpath WT265 which commences at the aforementioned point A (NGR TQ 6915 4325) and passes in a south westerly direction for 20 metres, west south westerly for 23 metres, thence south south westerly for 71 metres to its connection with Public Footpath WT287 at NGR TQ 6908 4317 (point C). The new length of path will have a width of 2.5 metres and will be situated 2.0 metres from the edge of the ditch.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order and the Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the offices of The Tunbridge Wells Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB or at the Countryside Access Service at Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX, during office hours. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there.

Any representation about or objection to the Order must be sent or delivered in writing to Laura Wilkins at the Kent County Council (address as below) no later than 5 December 2011. Please state the grounds on which it is made.

If no representations or objections are duly made, or if any so made are withdrawn, the Kent County Council may confirm the Order as an unopposed Order. If the Order is sent to the Secretary of State for the Environment for confirmation any representations and objections which have not been withdrawn will be sent with the Order.

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX

Dated: 6 November 2011

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

Kent County Council

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

BLIND LANE, MERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of telegraph pole replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Blind Lane, Mersham, on or after 9 November 2011 for up to 3 days, between 9.30 am and 3.30 pm.

The road will be closed between the railway bridge and Boyes Farm.

The alternative route is via Kingsford Street, The Street and Church Road.

POUND LANE, BRABOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of a new electricity supply cable, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pound Lane, Brabourne, on or after 7 November 2011 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Canterbury Road and Granary Court Road.

The alternative route is via Canterbury Road, Plain Road and Pound Lane (Pound House Road).

A2042 ROMNEY MARSH ROAD, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A2042 Romney Marsh Road, Ashford, from 16 November until 22 November 2011 inclusive (except Sunday), between 9.00 pm and 5.00 am, as shown below.

The road will be closed in both directions from the junction with A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road to the junction with B2229 Norman Road / Kimberley Way (Designer Outlet Centre), and additionally southbound from the junction with New Town Road.

The alternative route for through traffic is via Station Road, Wellesley Road, Mace Lane, Hythe Road, Willesborough Interchange, A2070 Bad Munstereifel Road, Romney Marsh Road, Malcolm Sargent Road, Wotton Road, Kingsnorth Road and B2229 Norman Road.

The Designer Outlet Centre roundabout will be closed in 2 phases, to ensure that access to the Designer Outlet Centre and 24-hour supermarket is maintained.

B2080 TENTERDEN ROAD & THE STREET, APPLEDORE (30 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce during water mains renewal works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order imposing a temporary mandatory speed limit of 30 mph on the B2080 Tenterden Road & The Street, Appledore, on or after 21 November 2011 for up to 20 weeks or until the works have been completed.

This affects the A2080 Tenterden Road from the junction with School Road / Ferry Road eastwards to the junction with The Street, and on The Street from this junction southwards to the existing 30 / 40 mph speed limit sign.

HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(BIFRONS HILL, BEKESBOURNE WITH PATRIXBOURNE) (40MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, propose to make the following Order:-

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 40 miles per hour in Bifrons Hill / Town Hill, from a point 70 metres north west of the junction with Station Road to the junction of Town Hill and High Street, Bridge.
2. The Interpretation Act 1978 shall apply for the interpretation of this Order as it applies for the interpretation of an Act of Parliament.
3. This Order may be cited as "The Kent County Council (Bifrons Hill, Bekesbourne with Patrixbourne) (40 mph Speed Limit) Order 2011"

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way

Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Canterbury District Council, Military Road, Canterbury, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 28th November 2011.

FORD ROAD, HERNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ford Road, Herne, on or after 7 November 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Claver House.

The alternative route is via Ford Hill, Heart in Hand Road and Margate Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOYDEN GATE) (30MPH SPEED LIMIT) (AMENDMENT NO 1) ORDER 2011

The Kent County Council in exercise of their powers under Sections 84 (1) and (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act, propose to make the following amendment:-

The Kent County Council (Various Roads, Boyden Gate) (30mph Speed Limit) Order 2006 shall have effect as though:

The following item to be inserted in the First Schedule in the correct alphabetical sequence:

1. No person shall drive any motor vehicle at a speed exceeding 30 miles per hour in the lengths of road specified in Schedule 1 of the order.

SCHEDULE 1

Lengths of road in the Canterbury District in the County of Kent

Boyden Gate Hill/ Highstead Lane	From the junction with North Stream in a north-westerly direction to a point 525 metres east of the junction of Highstead Lane and Ford Hill.
Church Lane	From its junction with North Stream to its junction with Chitty Lane.
Chapel Lane	From its junction with Highstead Lane for a distance of 100 metres in an easterly direction.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way

Ashford, TN24 8AD, between 8.30am and 5.00pm, and at Canterbury District Council, Military Road, Canterbury, during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Traffic Schemes and Member Highway Fund Manager, Kent County Council Highways, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to TRO@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 28th November 2011.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford

POWDER MILL LANE- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Powder Mill Lane, Wilmington outside Springfield.

The Order will become effective on 7th November 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence on 13th November 2011 and last 1 day. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Darrenth Road, Princess Road, Lowfield Street and Hawley Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Access to over head Network cabling for new connection.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

RICHBOROUGH ROAD, ASH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Richborough Road, Ash, on or after 7 November 2011 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of Pott's Farm.

The alternative route is via Richborough Road, Cop Street Road, Cop Street, A257 Ash By-pass, Hills Court Road and Cooper Street Drove.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Cop Street Road / Lower Goldstone and Cooper Street Drove.

Every effort will be made to maintain access for residents whenever it is safe to do so.

WALDERCHAIN AND AGESTER LANE, DENTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Walderchain and Agester Lane, Denton, as shown below

WALDERCHAIN will be closed between the junctions with Agester Lane and Lodge Lees Road, from 7 November 2011 for approximately 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Agester Lane and Lodge Lees Road

AGESTER LANE will be closed between the junctions with Walderchain and Snode Hill from 28 November 2011 for up to 4 weeks.

The alternative route is via Agester Lane, A260 The Street / Canterbury Road and Snode Hill.

The dates of the phases are approximate, and may vary according to weather and ground conditions.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

CRETE HALL ROAD, NORTHFLEET (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use of the Riverside footpath from the Red Lion Public House, Crete Hall Road to the Old Sun Public House at the junction with The Shore, Northfleet.

The Order will become effective on 21st November 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 12 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via Crete Hall Road footway.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Demolition of Structure bordering the Footpath.

D390 DABBS PLACE, COBHAM- (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Dabbs Place, Cobham.

The Order will become effective on 21st November 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; and will last 7 days - daytime closure only. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Henhurst Road and Church Road

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Tree care works.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(A260 CANTERBURY ROAD, HAWKINGE) (50MPH SPEED LIMIT)

ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 50 mph speed limit in Canterbury Road (A260), Hawkinge from the junction with Spitfire Way to a point 183m northwest of the junction with Holywell Avenue.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Monday to Friday at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or at Shepway District Council Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY during normal office hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to: The Transportation and Development Manager, East Kent Area, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on Monday 28 November 2011.

CANTERBURY ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of repairs to the railway bridge in Dover Road, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Canterbury Road, Folkestone, from 7 November 2011 for up to 2 weeks, as shown below.

The road will be closed at the junction with A260 Dover Road.

There will be no access between Canterbury Road and Dover Road, Monday to Friday nights, between 8.00 pm and 5.00 am.

The alternative route is via Princess Street, Alexandra Street and A260 Dover Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(A259 LYDD ROAD, NEW ROMNEY) (50MPH SPEED LIMIT)

ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 50 mph speed limit in Lydd Road (A259), New Romney from a point 120m west of Spitalfield Lane to a point 62m west of B2075 Romney Road.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Monday to Friday at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or at Shepway District Council Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY during normal office hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to: The Transportation and Development Manager, East Kent Area, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on Monday 28 November 2011.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(B2068 STONE STREET, LYMINGE) (40MPH AND 50MPH SPEED LIMIT)

ORDER 2012

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council

HIGHWAYS

officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 40mph and a 50 mph speed limit in Stone Street (B2068), Lyminge on the following length of streets:

50mph - From a point 179m north of Hempsted Lane to a point 85m north of Farthing Common.

40mph - from a point 85m north of Farthing Common to a point 69m south of Blind House Lane.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Monday to Friday at Kent County Council, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or at Shepway District Council Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent CT20 2QY during normal office hours.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to: The Transportation and Development Manager, East Kent Area, Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to traffic.schemes@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on Monday 28 November 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Swale

A299 THANET WAY, GRAVENEY WITH GOODNESTONE (50 MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of of Highways Agency resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 50 mph on the A299 Thanet Way, Graveney with Goodnestone, on or after 7 November 2011 for up to 5 nights or until the works have been completed.

The section of A299 Thanet Way affected is on the London-bound carriageway from a point approximately 170 metres north-east of the junction with Staple Street / Whitstable Road for a distance of 900 metres, to where the road becomes the M2 Motorway.

This is in conjunction with a closure of the London-bound on-slip between Brenley Corner Roundabout and the M2 Motorway for re-surfacing.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

READING STREET, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Reading Street, Broadstairs, on or after 7 November 2011 for up to 4 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Beacon Road, Grange Road and Callis Court Road.

The road will be closed from the vicinity of number 17 to the vicinity of number 42.

HIGHWAYS -Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(RYARSH LANE, WEST MALLING) (PROHIBITION OF PARKING)TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting parking on Ryarsh Lane on or after Monday 7th November 2011 when required for a period of up to 3 days or until such works are complete.

Southern Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to carry out sewer cleansing. Should you require any further information about these works, their contact is Laura Carlisle on 01403 282848.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(DISLINBURY ROAD (HALF MOON LANE), CAPEL) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Dislingbury Road from Pembury Road to Amherst Bank Road on or after Monday 21st November 2011 for a period of up to 1 week or until such works are complete.

The alternative route is via Pembury Road, Pembury Hall Road, Old Church Road, Redwings Lane, Amherst Bank Road.

KCC Highways apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works that are necessary to install new gullies. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Emma Philpott on 08458 247 800

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(FORGE ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) (SUSPENSION OF ONE WAY ORDER)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Forge Road, Southborough from A26 London Road to Norton Road on or after Monday 21st November 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed. The one way order on Forge Road is temporarily suspended during the closure to allow for access.

The alternative route is via Western Road, Norton Road.

Southern Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary to provide a new service. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Amy Colvin on 01689 881315.

Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated October 2011

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways and Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council



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GRILLS

Benjamin Michael

Home water birth in Greenhithe on 1/11/11 at 00.37am weighing 9lbs 1oz.

Precious son of Alison and Michael, baby brother to Samuel, Joshua & Abigail.





RICHARD NORMAN

RODWAY



65, died 29th October 2011 at his daughters' home in Bournemouth after suffering COPD for a number of years.

His funeral service will be held at 4pm on Friday 11th November at Thanet Crematorium, Manston Road, Margate followed by a wake at the Bedford Inn, West Cliff Road, Ramsgate.

His daughter Natalie requests that in lieu of flowers, donations are sent to The British Lung Foundation. He will be sadly missed. Everyone is welcome.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

BLACKMAN
Sarah and Dale of Chestfield are delighted to announce the birth of their son, Edward James, on 24th August 2011 at 00.22 hours weighing 4Ib 14oz.

CHAPMAN
Richard and Michelle Chapman of Hawkinge Folkestone are delighted to announce the birth of their son Bobby Michael, born on 25th October 2011 weighing 9lbs 6oz. A brother to Jack.

DELANEY
Lisa and James Delaney celebrate the birth of their daughter Ava Mary-Ann on 21st October 2011.

DENNISON
Jade-Marie Dennison and Jimmy McCann celebrate the birth of their twin sons Joeby-Lee and Jimmy-Ray on 4th October 2011. Brothers to Tommy and Miely.

FULLER
Michael and Faye are delighted to announce the birth of their son Caden David Edward Fuller.
Born 5th October 2011, weighing 10lb 1oz.
Mummy's little soldier.
Daddy's perfect cadence.

HUBBARD
Noah Ronald Jones Hubbard born on 8th October 2011 weighing 5lb 12oz. at 10:02am. Son to Sidney and Laura Hubbard.

PRESSNELL
Bailey Seven born on 19th September 2011,weighing 5lbs 2oz. Son to Wendy and Adrian in Dover.Welcome little brother to Paris,Aidan,Wade,Brade, Ellis and Aston.

RAO
Gutta Ramakoteswara Rao and Lavanya Gutta Rao are delighted to announce
the birth of their second son Shiva Gutta Rao born on 27th September 2011 at Darenth Valley Hospital. A baby brother for Aneesh. xx

SPRATT
John and Clare of Herne Bay are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful daughter, Zoe Elizabeth, on 17th September, 2011. Zoe was born at 2.43pm and weighed 5lb 11oz.

TRIFILETTI
Robert and Sarah of Garth Road Sevenoaks are delighted to announce the birth of their son Benjamin Natale Trifiletti born 1st October 2011 weighing 9lb 6oz

WALKER
Chloe Jessica WALKER born on the 22nd October 2011 weighing 7lbs 1oz at 3.21pm to proud parents Clinton and Shaan. Welcome to the world our little girl, love mummy and daddy.

WILLERTON
Jessica Rose Lane. Kirstie and Matthew Willerton are delighted to announce the birth of Jessica Rose Lane Willerton at 7.40am on Saturday 22nd October 2011

DEATHS

BRIGHT
Maria Bright of Ramsgate died suddenly on 22nd October 2011 aged 53. Enquiries to H R Palmer Ramsgate 01843 592720.

WILKIE
Kathleen Mary Elizabeth Wilkie passed away peacefully on 29th October 2011 after a short illness. She leaves two sons and a daughter, Geoffrey, Martin and Brenda, and she will be sadly missed.

Meet your perfect partner through your local trusted dating service

Call: 0800 032 9100 to place a free ad



Women Seeking

Guys Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people.

Send : CHAT601 To : 65125 or call 0906 635 0508 (T&C's below)

48YR old female, medium build, 5ft 2ins, brunette, wavy hair, employed seeks male for fun, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379185**

DIANE successful feisty business women, confident, fun, chatty, positive, social with everything but that special someone in her life and WLTM him. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379203**

ALICE 30's female, slim, lovely smile, not that happy at the moment but hoping you might change that, you've nothing to loose? Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379201**

JULIE attractive slim blonde blue eyed beauty, fit with GSOH, professional, OHAC, WLTM male for travel, good food/wine and mutual over indulgences. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379007**

TRISHA 39yr old social brunette looking for love, WLTM genuine male for fun times in or out. Can accommodate/travel, age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378979**

JO lonely green eyed brunette who enjoys nothing more that curling up on the sofa with similar tactile male, looking for her equal. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378975**

JANE passionate lady seeking unconventional young at heart male 35-50 for free spirited, open-minded fun and new experiences. Single dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375611**

LINDA 51, divorced, brown hair/eyes, size 16-18, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379107**

SERENE slim black attractive female, 37, friendly, likes reading, nature, theatre, music, WLTM genuine, caring, N/S gent, 34-47 to share laughter and life. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369411**

48YR old female, slim, caring, animal lover, seeks tall, caring male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388354**

MAVE young 73yr old widow, attractive, seeks tall, solvent gent, 65-75 to share good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378799**

HI I'm Louise, an easygoing sensual slim blonde looking for someone to have fun with initially maybe more later. Call me. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373009**

KAREN 58, 5ft 6ins, medium build, fun loving, romantic, caring, extrovert, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387902**

TALL long haired brunette, slim attractive, big green eyes, WLTM gent for mutual companionship, maybe leading to more. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376559**

MIA attractive slim fit female looking for someone to put the spark back in my life, seeking fun, adventurous and passionate male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376557**

MICHELLE 34, tall, attractive, feminine looking to share similar quality company with discreet male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378973**

YOUNG 73yr old widow, attractive, seeks male, 55-75 for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378785**

LINDA 68, N/S, likes nights in, meals out, holidays, GSOH, seeking a gent 60-70 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375651**

LIBBY 36, newly single, no hangups, WLTM outgoing male to wine/dine and forever be mine. Don't miss out! Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375607**

TASHA 37, blonde tanned and very pretty, seeks well dressed older male with GSOH for fun meets, loving treats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375605**

LESLIE 34yr old singleton, fun and vivacious looking for laughs/giggles with some great company. If you like the sound of me, pls call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375579**

FEMALE likes theatre, cinema, music, seeks gent, 50-80 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377915**

LYDIA quiet black female, slim, looking for love with nice guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376421**

I don't wanna be alone and unattached for another Xmas! Bev, attractive, big hearted, many interests, seeks male willing to take an interest in me! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376593**

KAZ 32yr old intellectual mixed race female, likes gym, meals in/out, seeks reliable, honest male, 38-58yrs to get to know for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376591**

NATALIE blonde blue eyed nurse, 39yrs medium build, no ties, life is good but I'm missing someone to love and lust after. Can you help? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376589**

KATHY 48, likes dogs, walks, cinema, seeks male of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388300**

FEMALE 74, 5ft 1ins, artistic, versatile, seeks nice caring gent for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378465**

URGENT would the gent from Eastbourne please contact Dawn again as I have the wrong number. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378425**

26YR old Indian princess looking for discreet older N/S professional male to make life a bit more interesting and share mutual companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373089**

DEE blonde, mature, young looking, seeking sugar daddy, any offers? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387722**

JANE 50, young at heart, GSOH, divorced, seeks male who wants to do something adventurous like travel the USA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387526**

LOOKING for company with someone who can restore my faith in the male species! Karen, sensual 36yr old brunette seeking genuine fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377107**

LORRAINE single mum new to the area starting again, OHAC, GSOH, WLTM nice guy to cuddle up with and appreciate, maybe more. Single dad welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377097**

LAURA slim attractive stylish feminine, GSOH looking for similar to enjoy good times with. Discretion expected/assured. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377095**

DONNA 26yrs, blue eyes, blonde, bored of spending nights in alone, looking for average looking male, 23-55yrs for TLC. Dads welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 376563**

ANNETTE likes cinema, theatre, seeks male, 60-70 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387476**

JULIE pretty 38yr old Irish female who is lonely as new to the area, looking for male up to 65yrs for tactile companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374705**

JO bright bubbly attractive country loving lass, looking for solvent older male to have a really good time with. Is that you? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375763**

DONNA lost my faith in men and looking for someone feisty to relight my fire, are you the one, call me, whatya got to loose? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375705**

KELLY blue eyed 21yr old blonde looking for someone who knows how to treat a lady for fun times together, 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375703**

CHRIS attractive slim redhead seeks nice male to relax with, get to know and share a glass of wine and maybe a takeaway. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375701**

CHARLOTTE 30, sweet French female, long legs, sporty, fit and healthy, seeking well built, fit guy to share interests and show me new ones. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372687**

AMANDA cuddly 36yr old easygoing caring lonely female just looking for love with nice guy, 30-55yrs. Nothing ventured, nothing gained. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375133**

SASHA 28yr old beautiful surfer babe looking for fun initially, maybe more with fit confident male who can handle me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375131**

CAROL slim, blue eyed attractive lady looking for fun friendship maybe more with open minded male happy to accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374675**

KAREN 36, pretty blonde who is stuck in a rut looking for easygoing kinda guy for discreet romantic meals and fun drives out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374673**

CUDDLY lady 65, blue eyed blonde, 5ft 3ins, 65, N/S, GSOH, animal lover, drives, WLTM tall, well built, caring single male, 50-70. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371473**

SICK of always taking life so seriously, looking for uncomplicated fun times with happy outgoing male. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371545**

ALICIA attractive petite female 22yrs, new to dating scene and area, loves nights in/out, WLTM male for adult fun. ACA. Can accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375135**

30'S female, easy-going, laidback, animal friendly, looking for that special person to share things with, any age/looks. Hope you call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372233**

CASSIE looking for good times, laughs, meals out with down to earth male, 30-65yrs who is looking for fun not commitment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375577**

CAROL 39yrs attractive slim brunette just looking for genuine caring man for romance, meals in and maybe more. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375575**

JUDY 56, post op trans gender, seeks guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372269**

DEBS petite brunette, 38yrs, well travelled, loves food and good wine, WLTM affectionate male for nice times. Status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372219**

YOUNG looking petite female prepared to try anything once, looking for similar open-minded tactile guy for fun loving times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372217**

CAROLINE 31, Attractive, slim but curvy brunette, witty and fun, seeking relaxed, male for fun times together. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373007**

HI I am Marie, a pretty middle aged lonely divorcee missing male company seeking love and laughter with likeminded man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373003**

CHRISTINE attractive 49yr old female, N/S, caring, GSOH, genuine, seeks male partner of similar age to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373997**

JEANETTE big brown eyed busty fit size 10 with lots of interest, searching for a sincere man to share love and life with. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374703**

JENNY very young shy black female looking for reliable, genuine nice older man to help me become an attentive lover, 40-70yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374701**

HELLO I'm Jane, attractive, genuine, caring, intelligent, romantic and single at 38yrs, what are you waiting for? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374677**

GEORGINA likes horses, dogs, walks, seeks male, 60-72 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386426**

LUCY bubbly attractive 32yr old blonde seeking similar naughty boy to share the good side of life with. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373109**

CLAIRE Gorgeous fun loving brunette, 29, 5ft 4ins, employed, OHAC, looking for manly male up to 45yrs for no strings good times and fine wine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373107**

LIFE begins at 40! Pam outgoing athletic brunette, tall, slender and attractive, WLTM older male with big personality for lots of fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374155**

LIDDY 28yr old genuine kind hearted girl looking for older male, 34-46yrs who can replace the other half of me that's missing. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375157**

BLONDE young looking female, seeks older, generous guy to spoil her. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369413**

47YR old female, slim, seeks tall male for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372783**

JENNI 36 slim pretty black female, seeks tall white male who is going to take care of me and be loved in return. Dads welcome 30-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375767**

KERRY 26yr old discreet attractive fit female who has been alone for far too long, looking for male 30-65yrs for convenient friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375765**

ANGELA divorced lady, seeking companion to share days out, cinema, meals etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387350**

LOVELY tall slim nurse, very caring and fun but missing that va-va-voom! Seeks adventurous male who's up for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374159**

FULL time vacancy arisen for open minded male seeking uncomplicated relationship with slim professional 39yr old female with wicked sense of humour. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374157**

NICKY 47 slim, honest, loyal, seeks tall, dark haired man for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387586**

ELIZABETH independent, no ties, solvent, fit and healthy, looking for similar passionate male, any age/looks for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375161**

SANDRA green eyed slim brunette, loves to keep fit, very competitive, seeks reliable mature male who can look after me and be loved in return. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375159**

STRIKING blonde 22, green eyes, wicked sense of humour, discreet, lots of spare time at home, looking for open minded friendship 35-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367977**

YOUNG at heart lady with lots to offer Mr Right, looking for open-minded special male for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370013**

DIVORCED lonely single mum, blue eyes, employed, OHAC, lots of interests, looking for someone to enjoy life with again. Any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370011**

33YR old slim curvy dark haired female with a GSOH, loves to spend time indoors and the simple things, WLTM similar male, 38-46yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370057**

I'M Gorgeous, lively and an outrageous flirt seeking a similar professional who thinks he can handle me, fun times guaranteed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369223**

STUNNING full figured blonde nurse, 32, funny and romantic, WLTM uncomplicated, reliable male, 50-65yrs for companionship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 369221**

PAULA tactile and cuddly with blue eyes looking for someone nice who can appreciate a feminine sensual lady. Age/looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 373585**

ATTRACTIVE cuddly, genuine, blue eyed blonde, 5ft 3ins, 65, N/S, GSOH, dog owner, animal lover, WLTM tall, well built, animal loving male, 50-69 for friendship, romance, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 371467**

LISA 19 curvy brown eyed brunette looking for a fun relationship with caring male up to 67yrs who will appreciate and look after me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 374131**

GENUINE racy female with a compassionate side looking for similar man to share lots of laughter and romantic nights in/out, 36-66yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370109**

PETITE 37yr old nurse with no ties looking for someone nice to spend some romantic time with, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370107**

TALL slim auburn haired sincere female, 37, looking for genuine fun relationship with open-minded male, 40-65yrs. Must be able to accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372055**

FEMININE slim, curvy lady, 58, nice eyes/smile, seeks peace loving gent, 50-69 to share travel, theatre, home life and meaningful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370943**

EM attractive full bodied lady, mild mannered, sensual nature, looking for happy times and loving future with appreciative man. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372659**

CLASSY lady, slim, pretty, young looking graduate, mixed race 38, London, seeking a sugar daddy to spoil and pamper me. Discretion assured. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367031**

ACTIVE slim female 30yrs, easygoing, honest with GSOH and a passion for life looking for genuine man to fall for, 28-50yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370097**

30'S female bored with staying in whilst everyone else goes out, looking for similar lonely heart, any age/looks. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370063**

BUSTY nurse slim size 10, brunette, just looking for a bit of fun and good times with understanding nice younger man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 372685**

VERY good looking Turkish female looking to meet male 29-45 for fun friendship. Looks/race/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370183**

ACTIVE solvent female with GSOH looking to start life again but this time be a lot more adventurous, care to join me? **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 370181**

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33YR old male, average build, blond hair, blue eyes, likes conversation, bars, meals out, music, nights in, travel, seeks friendly, easygoing female, 21-42 with similar interests for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388396**

PETE 5ft 9ins, dark hair, stocky, loving, seeks female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388378**

IF your over 50 and need a man to spend quality passionate time with, me fit, 55, just call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379075**

MALE 51, slim, semi retired, seeks attractive 40's lady, for fun, affection and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388340**

BARRY 61, likes cooking, nature, country walks, meals out, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388324**

YOUNG 70's male, seeks 60-70yr old female for friendship, nights in/out and possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378221**

5FT 9ins male, medium build, seeks female for adult fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388122**

TERRY 63, 6ft, slim, OHAC, seeks younger, slim female, no ties for friendship/relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375295**

SIMON 39, well built, good looking, seeks female to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377731**

LEE 28, easygoing, cheeky, good looking, dark hair, seeks female, 21-32 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388108**

PETER 56, 5ft 6ins, fair hair, blue eyes, seeks female for friendship, no ties, seeks female, 42-52 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388102**

STEVE 36 funny, likes a laugh, few drinks at the weekend, easygoing, looking for special female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388010**

NIGEL 42, likes cinema, meals out, seeks similar female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387996**

WHITE male, 6ft 1ins, 38, blue eyes, medium build, shaved hair, likes music, seeks Indian/Asian lady for ture white female for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377273**

DEREK black male, seeking mature female for friendship and serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387986**

DAVID 58, professional, looking for an easygoing lady for a LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 367157**

SPONTANEOUS 50 something male, seeks partner for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388208**

THOMAS athletic, easygoing, likes sports, meals out, cinema, nights out, seeks female, 40-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388192**

BI male, mid 30's, seeks open-minded female with good personality and GSOH for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378737**

MARTIN 37, seeks slim female, 29-39 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388150**

IAN 6ft 4ins, brown hair, goatee, divorced, fun loving, like children, animals, meals out, seeks female with no ties. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388268**

ITALIAN male, 5ft 4ins, medium build, handsome, seeks female for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378637**

BRIAN fun loving, looking for female for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388290**

PETER white male, young 70's, N/S, GSOH, seeks open-minded, attractive, adventurous female for weekends away etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378385**

LES 59, own flat, seeks female, 25-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 378301**

DARREN 41, sincere, honest, loyal, caring, tall, dark, likes sports, seeks N/S female, 30-50. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 377957**

YOUNG 61yr old Bexhill man, 5ft 8ins, likes cats, cooking, travel, seeks female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387582**

TALL caring, considerate male, 52, no ties, seeks female, 42-52 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375177**

NAUGHTY lady 50 plus sought to enjoy naughty fun and friendship with fit 55yr old real man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375083**

KEVIN young, fun loving, free spirited, adventurous male, fit, healthy, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 375077**

MIKE black male seeks large male, 36-48 for fun times, friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387848**

GARY 43, easygoing, seeking female, 36-48 for fun times, friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387812**

JAMES 60's, N/S, tall, slim, friendly, GSOH, seeks similar female to enjoy simple things in life, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387808**

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SMALL N/S male, early 50's, seeks larger older male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 388386**

RICHARD 38, ex model, passive, likes horses, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 379097**

BI male, 60, seeks male of similar age or younger. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385388**

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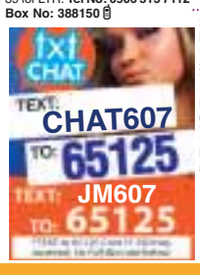
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Widdy to serve her pantomime apprenticeship in Snow White

SEE PAGE 50



FOX ROX

Bruce Foxton leads the boys into a right Jam

SEE PAGE 52

Kent Weekend

Turn over, turn off



Robin Ince shares some really bad books at literary festival

SEE PAGE 53

PLUS: Restaurant's recipe to help rejuvenate seaside town - **eating out p47**
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THE INTERVIEW

Leslie Grantham

Dirty Den's ready to cause mischief

Reporter **Joe Bill** meets the king of the bad guys



THE infamous line 'Hello princess' will once more be uttered by EastEnders' Dirty Den, but not in the context you might think.

The Stag Theatre in Sevenoaks has bagged former Albert Square villain Leslie Grantham to play the Demon King in this year's pantomime.

The actor has agreed to once again take his role as the baddie in the December production of Mother Goose.

But Grantham is no novice when it comes to panto slaps and the old 'It's behind you' routine.

He said: "I play the bad guy – it's the first time I have been the Demon King, but I have done panto for years. I have been Captain Hook and Dirty Rat and all them. I am always the baddie, all over the country.

"There is no singing or dancing for me. I just batter the comic and try to convince the princess not to marry the prince and all that. I am there as the party-pooper.

"Funnily enough, I used to come to Sevenoaks and Swanley when I was a kid. When the family moved out of London, I lived in Orpington and we used to jump on the train to Sevenoaks for a day out.

"It's changed a bit, mind you – they have got electricity now. I'm joking, but it is a lot bigger than I remember it."

The 64-year-old is best known for his role as 'Dirty' Den Watts in Eastenders during the late 80s before supposedly being killed off by a hitman. He resumed his role as one of the most infamous soap villains in 2003 when he returned to Albert Square to help his daughter Sharon recapture the Queen Vic pub.

He remained an integral part of the soap until 2004, when he was once again killed off, this time struck over the head by the pub's famous bust of Queen Victoria.

His bad-boy acting persona was supplemented by tabloid revelations about his personal life and Grantham doesn't think he will be heading back to the soap for a third stint.

He said: "I hope not. I still get called Dirty Den by people, but it's fine – it surprises me how much I do get it still. There are schoolkids now who have seen the show and know who I was. So Dirty Den lives on."

Since leaving the soap world, Grantham has returned to his first love, the stage.

He has been treading the boards up and down the country in shows like Beyond Reasonable Doubt, The Decorator and a stage adaptation of Dad's Army.

He said: "I haven't stopped theatre for the last six years, I love doing it.

"The panto rehearsals start at the end of November, but at the moment I'm on tour with a spoof Agatha Christie, so I have another seven weeks on that first.

"I haven't seen the script of the panto yet, but I have heard it's good. We've got a nice production company – all the cast get on very well. We got together a little while ago to meet and I didn't dislike any of them, so they are allowed to still be here."

Grantham, who trained at the Webber Douglas Academy Of Dramatic Art, has also started back on television but this time on the Continent. Impressively, he learnt a new language for the drama.

He said: "I did a series out in Bulgaria last year – it comes from a famous Bulgarian book called The English Neighbour, about an English guy who goes out there and buys a property.

"I had to learn Bulgarian to be in it, so I start off in the show speaking English and then pidgin Bulgarian and then full Bulgarian."

But Grantham does not envisage himself coming back to British television for reality shows just for the sake of being on screen: "You will never see me on celebrity come dancing or anything like that. I have enough trouble walking and talking without having to dance."

With just a couple of months until the panto season gets under way, Grantham is just hoping for a good run of shows and nice weather.

"I am still based in London so will be commuting most days because it's not too far," he said. "But if it looks like we are going to get a bad winter, then I will probably have to stay down here somewhere, because I hate being late to anything.

"I am hoping that the summer will finish late, hopefully some time in February."

Grantham stars alongside Demon Headmaster actor Terrance Hardiman and West End star Anna Kumble.

See the website www.sevenoakspanto.com for more information.

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New eatery adds vital seasoning to recipe for town's regeneration

IT'S been a long time since the heyday of the British seaside resort and until recently I had remained cynically unconvinced Folkestone would ever return to those glory days.

Over the last year, however, the town, with all its faded grandeur and shabby Victorian buildings, has wheedled its way into my heart and I've started to hope all the hard work put in by organisations such as the Creative Foundation is noticed by those who would usually have dismissed this once-loved resort.

And if the recent Folkestone Triennial failed to convince critics, then I have a feeling that Rocksalt, opened in the spring by Mark Sargeant, former head chef of Claridge's, may help in turning not just a few but a lot of heads.

Located in the harbour area, the restaurant fits in easily on the historic waterfront with its traditional seaside charm.

The restaurant itself is beautiful, with a huge sweeping window ensuring that, whichever table you sit at, you will have a view of the harbour.

And although it's simplistic decor, you can't help but notice the detail that has gone into ensuring this restaurant makes its mark in the style stakes, such as the shell filled with rocksalt in the centre of each table.

Once seated at our table – with bread and olive oil placed in front of us – we ordered a bottle of La Belle Maison Sauvignon Blanc (£18.50).

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**



After a lot of deliberation (we were easily sidetracked by delicious-looking dishes being placed on tables around us), I went for the fish soup (£7.50) and my dining companion the tankard of grilled prawns (£8.75).

When my guest's prawns arrived – in a pewter tankard – I had to stifle food envy. They were big, juicy and flavoursome, but my fish soup was just as tasty.

For my main I ordered fish pie (£12.75) and my guest saltmarsh lamb (£14.50). We shared several side dishes... beef-dripping chips, buttered turnips, carrots and gratin, all £2.50. The fish pie was creamy and rich with a generous amount of seafood. The lamb was succulent and perfectly cooked and my meat-loving guest said it was the best he had tasted.

The side dishes, particularly the beef-dripping chips, which arrived at our table in a miniature metal bucket, were delicious, although the gratin was slightly too salty.

I chose blackberry and basil mousse (£5.75) and my guest the cinnamon pannacotta with poached plums (£6.95) to finish. The mousse came with a deliciously sharp sorbet on a wooden board. It was small details like this that added a touch of class.

For a Thursday night the restaurant was busy with couples, families and an older crowd, but the waiters put no pressure on us to leave as we sat over a few more drinks and coffees, enjoying the buzz of Folkestone's newest eatery.

Rocksalt had lived up to the hype and I suspect will play a major part in the renaissance of this once-favoured resort.

■ **Rocksalt**
4-5 Fishmarket, Folkestone CT9 6AA
Telephone: 01303 884633

FARMERS' MARKETS

PENSHURST: The Times recently named Penshurst farmers' market in its Top Ten markets in the UK. With more than 30 stalls offering the best local food and drink, it is held against the wonderful backdrop of Penshurst Place on the first Saturday of each month.

EGERTON: Egerton farmers' market has now been trading every Friday from 2pm to 4.30pm for almost five years, with most of the original stallholders still selling at the market in the Millennium Hall, which is extremely popular with both local producers and consumers.

MEOPHAM: Meopham farmers' market has been operating since July 2004 in the overflow car park of the Meopham fitness and tennis centre, the site of the school, library and doctors' surgery, on the first Sunday of the month from 9am to 12.30pm.

MERSHAM: Featuring top-quality produce from the immediate rural area, the new market that is now held at the Farriers Arms, Mersham Forstal, takes place between 2.30pm and 6.30pm on every second and fourth Friday of the month.

SISSINGHURST: This market is located in the ancient Elizabethan barn, next to the Granary restaurant within the famous Sissinghurst National Trust site on the second Monday of every month, when the gardens are open between midday and 3pm.

IWADE: Iwade village hall first opened its popular farmers' market in February 2009 and it takes place on the first Sunday of the month from 10am until 1pm, offering fresh seasonal local produce at competitive prices.

■ **For more information on farmers' markets around the county, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk**



FEATURE **Fireworks**

PARTY

Making the perfect Bonfire Night



NIGHT TO REMEMBER: Follow our tips to ensure your Bonfire Night party goes off with a bang

REMEMBER remember the fifth of November, gunpowder, treason and plot. We see no reason why your Bonfire Night party should ever be forgot.

This weekend, millions of us will be remembering the foiled plan by Guy Fawkes to blow up the Houses of Parliament in 1605 in what is a truly British celebration.

The smell of fireworks and bonfires filling the air always confirms that winter is upon us and the party season has started.

Pull your woolies and wellies on and, whether or not you are hosting your own Bonfire Night bash or attending someone else's, there are some great tips to make sure it goes off with a bang.

Make sure your guests are extra-comfortable by placing lawn chairs or large logs a safe distance from the fire as no one wants to sit on damp grass, but you don't want to get too close, either!

To boost the entertainment factor, introduce some party games. Especially being so soon after Halloween, games like apple-bobbing are a favourite with children, while adults can have fun telling spooky stories or Chinese whispers.

Why not encourage musical guests to bring along an instrument and provide some live entertainment that everyone will enjoy?

Great music is key to a good party, so prepare your tunes in advance and use a music system where you can press 'play' and leave it for the entire evening.

Remember that there's nothing quite like tucking into hot wholesome food in the great outdoors, and something hot is always welcomed as it gets chilly in the evenings.



BE SAFE

Safety is also very important on Bonfire Night, especially with guests and youngsters coming to watch.

So stay safe and follow the Fireworks Code:

- When buying fireworks, make sure they comply with BS 7114 and are clearly marked for their intended use: indoor, garden or display
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Follow the instructions on each firework
- Light all fireworks at arms' length
- Stand well back
- Never go back to a lit firework
- Never put fireworks in your pocket
- Never throw fireworks
- Keep pets indoors

RECIPE

IDEAL dishes for Bonfire Night include hearty casseroles, stews and chills that can be prepared in advance and are easily served to your guests from a single pot or container.



Sausages and hot dogs are a must, and no Bonfire Night party is complete without a mouth-watering jacket potato.

To make sure your jackets are the best ever, simply follow these easy instructions:

- You first have to choose the right kind – varieties such as King Edward, Maris Piper, Wilja, Ailsa and Golden Wonder are all ideal.
- Prick with a fork, which will prevent them from exploding in the oven. Let them dry for a minute or two before baking.
- Dust lightly with fine seasalt while they are still wet for a crisp and savoury skin.

Bake somewhere between 200°C/gas mark 6 and 230°C/gas mark 8, until the skins are crisp. This will take about an hour for a medium-sized 400g potato. Potatoes are done when the flesh gives to a little pressure from thumb and forefinger.

Make an incision in the shape of a large cross in the middle of the potato to reveal the fluffy inside, before adding butter and seasoning, and you will be eating the perfect jacket potato.



The hottest selection of fine menus

IF variety is the spice of life, then Kent is one hot county.

The Garden of England fills à la carte menus in restaurants and pubs across the county with fresh fruits, locally-sourced produce and meals that cater for almost any requirement.

The choice of dishes for diners in the area is greater than ever before. Whether it be a business affair where good food and drink oils the discussion and prepares for a big profitable deal, or a relaxed long meal with family or friends catching up on all the gossip, there is always something for everyone.

Here is a selection of excellent venues all offering something different yet with one thing in common – a commitment to culinary excellence and impeccable service.

Many of the county's venues pride themselves on serving top-quality Kentish produce – whether it be locally-caught fish, Romney Marsh lamb, home-produced beef, or the strawberries, cherries, apples and plums from the rolling fields and orchards that make our county so special.

The choice is vast and an à la carte menu is the perfect way to ensure that diners can get to experience the superb range of fine foods on offer.

And when it comes to something to wash down the meal – what better than delicious Kentish wines, ales or ciders?

They are among the best-produced anywhere in Britain and justly famous for their wonderful quality. But, with so many venues from which to choose, where do you start? Here are six of the best...



The Orangery
Margate

Why here...
The Orangery in Smiths Court Hotel provides fresh, locally-sourced food served in a fabulous marble-floored, sea-view setting. Don't miss eating at one of Thanet's finest restaurants.

On the menu...
A range of seasonal dishes. Current highlights include scallops and chorizo to start; a venison steak, sea bass or lamb shank for main; treacle and butternut squash tart or lemon-meringue pie to finish.

How to book...
phone: 01843 222310
email: info@orangeryrestaurant.co.uk
www.orangeryrestaurant.co.uk
or pop in to Smiths Court Hotel





First and Last
Herne Common

Why here...
Situated between Herne Bay and Canterbury, this friendly pub offers a fabulous choice of food, real ales, wines, spirits and a great craic! The function room offers a great Christmas party venue.

On the menu...
The à la carte menu is available every evening and changes weekly. A variety of food is available through lunchtime and there is a Sunday lunch menu offering roasts.

How to book...
The First and Last,
Herne Common, Herne Bay
phone: 01227 364465
thefirstandlastfreehouse.co.uk



The Olive Tree
Ramada Dover

Why here...
The new à la carte Olive Tree restaurant is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. There is free car- parking and on Thursday and Friday evening there is 'live cooking'. The resident pianist plays in the restaurant on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and on Sunday lunchtimes. The warm and friendly ambience makes the restaurant the perfect place to dine.

On the menu...
The à la carte menu has been designed by a head chef to offer a variety of local and international dishes. A table d'hote menu is available with a choice for each course. Ask for the two-for-one offer on the table d'hote menu.

How to book...
The Olive Tree Restaurant
Ramada Hotel Dover
Singledge Lane,
Whitfield, Dover CT16 3EL
phone: 01304 872845; email:
reservations@ramadadover.co.uk

See Ho
Shorne

Why here...
The See Ho bar and restaurant is in a beautiful rural location and very popular with walkers. It is close to Shorne Country Park and ideal for freshly-prepared lunches and dinners.

On the menu...
Fresh fish is prepared daily and ingredients are sourced locally. Home-made pies, curries and Italian dishes are highly popular. Suffice to say, an excellent Christmas menu is being prepared.

How to book...
Pear Tree Lane, Shorne,
Gravesend DA12 3JX
phone: 01474 822386
web: www.theseeho.com





Waterfront
Dover Marina

Why here...
The Waterfront restaurant is open seven days a week for breakfast, lunch and dinner. With its warm, friendly ambience and seafront views, it makes an ideal venue for dining. A resident pianist plays in the restaurant on Thursday, Friday and Sunday lunchtimes and Saturday evenings. For Sunday lunch there is an extensive Sunday ccarvery buffet, while every Thursday there is Bombay Night featuring Indian cuisine and live cooking.

On the menu...
The à la carte menu offers a variety of dishes selected by the international head chef which include a daily special. A table d'hote menu is available offering a choice for each course. Ask about the two-for-one offer on the table d'hote menu.

How to book...
Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa, Waterloo Crescent, Dover
phone: 01304 203633; email:
reservations@dovermarinahotel.co.uk



White Hart
Canterbury

Why here...
Close to Canterbury's centre, the pub boasts the city's largest garden and offers traditional pub-grub meals and snacks for lunch but with a more diverse à la carte menu for evening diners.

On the menu...
Dishes include roast rack of lamb with Dauphinoise potatoes, aubergine caviar and Chantenay carrots. Finish with a home-made dessert such as chocloate marquise with Baileys Chantilly cream.

How to book...
The White Hart, Worthgate Place, Canterbury
freephone: 0800 997 8722
whitehartpub@live.co.uk

KENT ATTRACTIONS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**



Panto Widdy
Ann can't wait to take stage

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Friday, Dec 9, to Saturday, Dec 31
01322 220000
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

MIRROR mirror on the wall, tell me Ann Widdecombe is starring in a panto, that is all. The former Maidstone MP and Strictly Come Dancing star is heading to Dartford to work alongside Craig Revel Horwood in Snow White And The Seven Dwarves.

Widdecombe, right, who will play Widdy In Waiting as servant to Revel Horwood's Wicked Queen, said: "I'm delighted that the first panto I'm ever doing is in Kent. It will mean a lot of friends will want to come along."

There is sure to be plenty of dry wit and indeed ballroom dancing in the show, which has already sold 25,000 tickets. This year's pantomime has a limited run of only three weeks; tickets are priced at £19.50.

Snow leopard
Ziva arrives to thrill keepers

Howletts, Bekesbourne
Open 10am-5pm
01227 721286
wwwaspinallfoundation.org

KEEPERS at Howletts Wild Animal Park were delighted to welcome Ziva, a rare female snow leopard, as part of a breeding programme.

Wild snow leopards are extremely elusive in central Asia and, due to hunting for their coats and decline of prey, are becoming increasingly rare.

Animal director Neil Spooner said: "Ziva has joined us from Banham zoo, where she was born as part of an ongoing breeding programme.

"We hope to introduce Ziva to a male that has recently arrived with us from a wild animal park in France. If we are lucky, they will produce cubs, which in turn will go on to breed when they are old enough – this will help to ensure the survival of the species."



Video game on!
Street Fighter tournament

Odeon Canterbury
Friday, November 11
01227 453577
www.odeon.co.uk

THE Odeon cinema in Canterbury is running a charity competition in which customers are invited to take part in a video-games tournament to raise money for the children's charity NSPCC.

The cinema can project video games on to the huge film screens in high definition with surround-sound.

For a £3 ticket fee, all of which will be donated to the NSPCC, the entrants will take part in a knockout tournament of Street Fighter IV.

The grand prize of an Xbox 360 or Playstation 3 has been donated by CEX gaming shop and there will also be a charity auction, selling off film publicity material with all proceeds donated.

The tournament should last about three hours and is suitable for people over the age of 15.



Festival's final flourish
An evening of classics

Deal town hall
Friday, November 11, 7.30pm
01304 381134
www.dealfestival.co.uk

THE final concert of the Deal Festival autumn series will take place at Deal town hall on Friday, November 11.

Performers include classical musicians David Le Page, Matthew Sharp and flautist Nicola Vella-Burrows, above. They will perform Brahms's Hungarian Rhapsody, madrigals by Martinu and duets by Mozart and Beethoven.

This should be a thrilling concert with amazing soloists and local musician Vella-Burrows, who usually plays with the Deal folk band Cocos Lovers. She focuses on improvisation and the classical repertoire and is reading music at the University of London. Tickets cost £12 from The Sounds House; phone 01304 381134.

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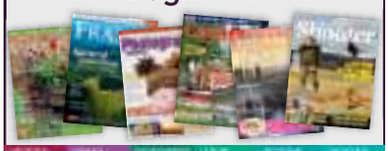
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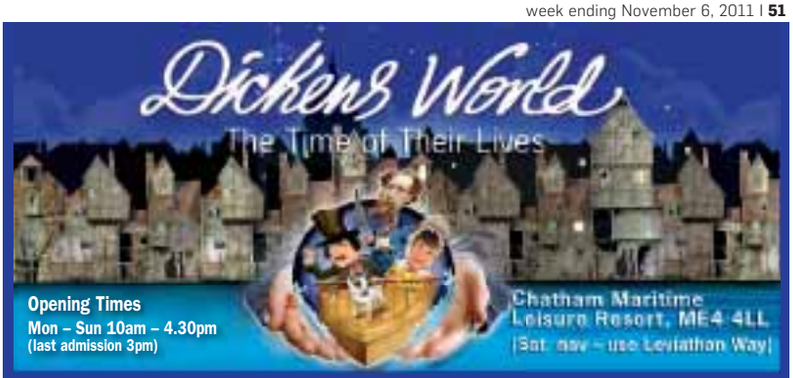
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We invite you to visit Dickens World for FREE and meet our Christmas Elves, Father Christmas, our Snow White Pantomime characters, & enjoy watching a performance of 'A Christmas Carol' complete with indoor snow fall & much more.
Market Stalls on Sat 12th & Sun 13th November & much more in the Dickens World courtyard.



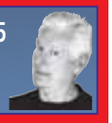
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Johnny English Reborn (PG)	Tin Tin 3D (PG)
Monte Carlo (PG)	In Time (12A)
Paranormal Activity 3 (15)	Tower Heist (12A)
Ra, One 3D (12A)	Machine Gun Preacher (15)
Real Steel (12A)	Twilight: Breaking Dawn part 1 (TBC) Book Now. Released 18th Nov

ODEON KIDS
Spy Kids: All the Time in the World 2D (PG)

SENIOR SCREEN
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Tower Heist (12A)

THE OTHER CINEMA
The Skin I Live In (15)

For times and films, please call the film line on 0871 22 44 007 or visit www.odeon.co.uk

For all Dickens World information and online bookings, go to www.dickensworld.co.uk or call 01634 890421

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EXHIBITIONS & EVENTS

To be included on this page, please email **features@kosmedia.co.uk**



Foxton by the sea
From The Jam

Winter Gardens, Margate
Satuurday, November 19
01843 292795
www.margatewintergardnes.co.uk

BRUCE Foxton is part of the English rock'n'roll establishment, world-renowned as the bass player in legendary bands The Jam and Stiff Little Fingers.
He and drummer Rick Buckler joined singer-songwriter Paul Weller to form The Jam, who have been described as one of the most important bands in British music history.
Now in his spin-off group, From The Jam, Foxton is joined by Mark Brzezicki on drums, known for his work with Big Country, and vocalist Russell Hastings for the classic songs.
With The Jam unlikely to reform, this is fans' best chance to see songs like A Town Called Malice performed as they were meant to be.

It's fair play to David Essex
Musical show

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Tue to Sat, November 8-12
01322 220000
www.allthefunofthefairmusical.com

ROLL up, roll up! Come and see David Essex in the new production of classic musical show All The Fun Of The Fair. The show comes off the back of a record-breaking West End season at The Garrick Theatre, where it was nominated for Best New West End Musical 2010.
David Essex, who has recently been appearing in EastEnders, leads a cast of talented young performers in this rollercoaster ride of romance and rock'n'roll.
Inspired by Essex's album All The Fun Of The Fair, the show is full of his well-known hits including Winter's Tale, Hold Me Close, Gonna Make You A Star, Me and My Girl (Nightclubbing), Silver Dream Machine and Rock On. Tickets start at £25.50.





Scrooge takes scary journey
Christmas tale

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Sunday, November 20, 7.30pm
01474 337774
www.gravesham.gov.uk

ON Christmas Eve, surely the most magical night of the year, the miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is whisked away on a terrifying journey through the past and into the future, accompanied by three fearsome ghosts determined to make him realise the true meaning of Christmas.
Charles Dickens's classic ghost story is brought alive in this most traditional of productions, which has been adapted brilliantly by Laura Turner and the Chapterhouse Theatre Company.
The festive show is complete with beautiful period costume, song and dance and a magnificent, original musical score – it is set to bring that warm Christmassy feeling to the audience.

Lloyd-Webber is hitting town
Brit Award man

St Mary's Arts Centre, Sandwich
Saturday, November 19,
www.stmarysartscentre.org.uk

REGARDED as one of the most creative musicians of his generation, Julian Lloyd Webber won a scholarship to the Royal College of Music when 16 and completed his studies in Geneva with revered French cellist Pierre Fournier.
Lloyd Webber has made many superb recordings, including his Brit Award-winning Elgar Concerto conducted by Yehudi Menuhin, and premiered more than 50 works.
He has inspired songs from composers as diverse as Malcolm Arnold, Joaquin Rodrigo and Phillip Glass.
In 2009, in recognition of his devotion to Elgar's music, Lloyd Webber was elected president of the Elgar Society.
Tickets are available from Smoke On The Water, Market Street, Sandwich (phone 01304 611600). Doors open at 6.30pm and tickets cost £28.

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STAGE & ARTS

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Good reads... and bad

Book festival

Venues across Folkestone
Until Saturday, November 12
01303 858500
http://folkestonebookfest.com

FOLKESTONE is hosting its book festival this month at venues as varied as Quarterhouse, The Grand Hotel on The Leas, The Brewery Tap pub and the town library.
Among the highlights will be an appearance by Martin Bell at Quarterhouse at 5.30pm on Tuesday (November 8).
The following day sees a literary walk around town and a quiz at Quarterhouse.
Historical subjects tackled include the Second World War, the English Civil War, the birth of modern Britain, King Henry VIII and his rise to power and memories of life at Chatham's Royal Navy dockyard.
On Friday (November 11), comic Robin Ince will be at Quarterhouse with his Bad Book Club: volumes he discovers in charity stores, such as the autobiography of John Major's brother...



McFly line up two Kent gigs

See the boys

Leas Cliff Hall, Folkestone, and Margate Winter Gardens
www.leascliffhall.co.uk or
www.margatewintergardens.co.uk

TOP rock and pop boy band McFly are heading to Kent for two dates as part of their much-anticipated new tour.
Tom, Danny, Dougie and Harry will visit Margate Winter Gardens on Tuesday, March 13, and make the short trip to Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall for a gig the following evening (March 14).
The 26-date Up Close And Personal tour will be the boys' first on home soil for a little while after this year's long worldwide expedition.
In 2004, McFly's first album, Room On The 3rd Floor, broke the world record for the youngest-ever band to have a No 1 album, a record previously held by The Beatles. Tickets go on sale from Saturday, November 26, priced £27.50.

The Mods and rockers in tune

Sixties relived

Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Wednesday, November 23
www.orchardtheatre.co.uk
01322 220000

YOU can turn back the clock and relive the Sixties when Mods VS Rockers hits The Orchard Theatre in Dartford this month.
This year's show includes songs from the Swinging Sixties, including music from the bands who helped shape today's music scene.
With songs from artists such as The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, The Who, The Kinks, Jimi Hendrix and many more, you'll be forgiven for getting out of your seat and rocking out in the aisles.
Get ready to dress up in your best Sixties kit, get rocking and lose yourself for two hours.
Mods VS Rockers is on Wednesday, November 23, from 7.45pm. Tickets cost £17.50.





A chiller takes stage

The Haunted Bride

Memorial Theatre, Broadstairs
Sunday, November 6, 7pm
0845 2626263
email: info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk

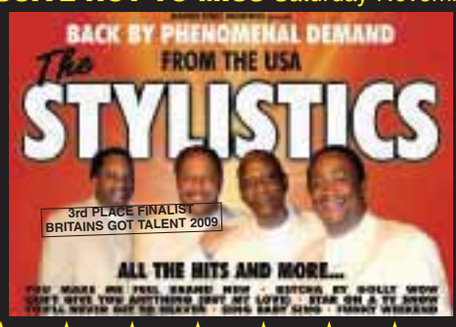
THIS spine-chilling new play by John Goodrum finds 19th-century tour guide Giovanni Baptista meeting up with cockney lady's maid Carolina, 10 years after their extraordinary experience with newly-weds Thomas and Clara Manning.
Gradually the two of them unfold the horrifying tale of Thomas, happy and carefree when he set off from London with his young bride Clara, who is haunted by a dream in the nights leading up to her wedding.
Audiences will be thrilled and excited by this fast-moving tale in which reality is always shifting and nothing is quite what it seems.
Tickets cost £10.50 for members and £12.50 for non-members.



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EXCLUSIVE NOT TO MISS Saturday November 26th


From dilapidated hotel to des res, seafront site shines bright again

ONE of Margate's most obvious and depressing eyesores has been given a new lease of life through its redevelopment as flats.

The formerly-dilapidated Arcadian hotel on Margate seafront has been relaunched as a residential development comprising 14 one- and two-bedroom apartments.

A limited number of the apartments is available for sale starting at £120,000, but the majority are rentable – one-bedroom apartments start from £450 per month and two-bedroom apartments from £550 per month.

The hotel was built in the late 1800s and subsequently converted into flats. However, prior to the recent refurbishment undertaken by developer Geoffrey Berger, the block had been unoccupied and become run-down to the point of derelict.

Kent County Council's No Use Empty scheme played an integral role in the project by providing an interest-free loan of £175,000 to Berger, who put forward the rest of the funding.

Berger said: "In the current climate it is extremely challenging to get redevelopments of this nature off the ground and I am grateful to the No Use Empty scheme for the assistance they have provided, financial and otherwise, to help turn my vision for the site into a reality."

Thanet District Council, a partner in the scheme, targeted the site for regeneration and worked with Berger once he had acquired the site to raise the necessary finance.





BEFORE AND AFTER: The Arcadian gave an awful impression, left, before its dramatic refurbishment

Steve Grimshaw, project manager for the No Use Empty scheme, said: "It is important that with house-building declining, we look at ways we can utilise unused buildings to create quality housing.

"Thanet District Council has worked tirelessly to ensure this site will have a future and we are delighted to be involved in a project that, as well as providing 14 much-needed homes, will further aid the regeneration of Margate Old Town following the arrival of the Turner Centre earlier this year."

The new development carefully replicates the Arcadian's original wrought-iron balcony and hotel signage, meaning the Victorian character of the building is retained.

The apartments are spacious, with Victorian high ceilings and large, panoramic windows. The internal finish includes hand-fitted kitchens and solid wood worktops, while some of the apartments have private balconies.

ASKME!

In this second part of his series, **Martin Cunningham** MNAEA, commercial director of Archant's property portal, **homes24.co.uk**, introduces another useful new function built into homes24, now powered by **Zoopla**

ASKME! is homes24's free social-media function based on an open forum that allows people to ask property questions.

AskMe! members are commonly local estate and letting agents, who will provide the answers required.

Questions can be asked at a national, regional or local level. For instance, if you want to enquire what is the most sought-after area of Canterbury, local agents will give their opinion. Another question might be if a road lies within a particular school catchment area.

If you have a property question, you can find AskMe! at **http://bit.ly/askmeh24**. Alternatively, scan the QR code at the top of the page.

Until next week...
Martin





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4x4 Guide

- Extreme weather draws us back to 4x4s
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- Brand leaders are reinventing the 4x4 to suit changing tastes



Hyundai's new i40 is a contender for family-car champ

Driving

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GOOD-LOOKING: The nicely-packaged Audi Q3 has a lot to offer the discerning driver

Wave of new products brings Q3 to our shores

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

AUDI'S on a roll.

It is now the biggest-selling premium brand in the UK, one of a few bucking the depressing motor-market trend this year, and it's still adding to a wave of fresh products – 12 new models in five years.

This began in 2006 with the first of a new range of butch Audi SUVs, the enormous Q7 SUV in 2006, and now we have the third and most junior Q model, the Q3.

It's good-looking, well-packaged and, while actually longer than the new Range Rover Evoque and BMW X1 that are its key rivals, transversely mounting its engines – its Q5 and Q7 sisters have theirs running lengthways – has allowed a big cabin.

Boot space isn't so hot, but there's not much else to carp about.

Even the price is keen, making it a desirable buy for townies affecting membership to the country set, but predicted low depreciation translates into what should be the lowest running costs in its sector, so fleet and business buyers are expected to nab 40 per cent of sales.

The range starts at £24,560 and that's not due to a spartan spec, either. The lower of two trim levels is SE, which brings alloys, quality sound system, dual-zone climate control, leather multi-function steering wheel, Bluetooth, rear parking sensors... and more. Upgrading to flagship S Line adds just £2,750 and unlocks extra goodies including sports suspension – 45 per cent of buyers are expected to take this route.

The tempting lead-in price is helped, though, by the option of a front-wheel-drive-only eco version due in December, the 2.0-litre TDI 140, capable of averaging more than 50mpg and emitting just 137 g/km of CO_2.

But most models will wear Audi's all-wheel-drive quattro branding and I was impressed by three versions I drove, including the predicted best-seller, the refined 177PS (174bhp) 2.0-litre quattro diesel (from £28,460).

Audi makes much of the Q3's low weight due to extensive use of aluminium in the bodywork, and this showed even on the most modestly-powered versions, both in terms of performance and the controlled nimbleness of a relatively high car, even on wet and greasy surfaces.

Despite the taut control, though, the Q3 rides comfortably with good views out of a glassy cabin.

1ST DRIVE — AUDI Q3

Price: £24,560-£31,360

Driving appeal: ★★★★★

Image: ★★★★★

Space: ★★★★★

Value: ★★★★

Running costs: ★★★★

Reliabilty: ★★★★★

How green?: ★★★

Best rival: Range Rover Evoque

Lexus shakes up the executive market with GS

JAPANESE premium brand Lexus aims to take the fight to German rivals with its new-generation GS model arriving early next year.

The new GS – rival to the BMW 5-Series, Audi A6 and Mercedes-Benz E-Class – will mark a new corporate look for Lexus, including a distinctive new grille, but the key point is to add more driver enjoyment and feedback – an area where the Toyota luxury brand is seen to have struggled against the best of the German rivals.

If it can pull it off, though, this GS could be a breakthrough model for Lexus, adding driver satisfaction to the marque's undoubted quality and value – all Lexus models come generously loaded with equipment.

The new GS has a wider stance than the current car to help improve handling and a more spacious interior but virtually the same dimensions as currently – nobody wins custom in the car business nowadays by going bigger.

UK buyers placing their orders now can choose between the technologically-advanced GS 450h full petrol-electric hybrid or GS 250 petrol.

The new range includes more use of aluminium to cut weight and boost nimbleness and comfort.

The GS also boasts a sexier grille, which Lexus says will become the brand's 'new face' and there is even a new palette of colours to make the cars shimmer and complement those sleeker lines.

Standard kit includes reversing camera, 10 airbags – including knee airbags for both driver and front passenger – enhanced Bluetooth connectivity for phone use and the usual premium sound/vision system expected of the brand, with a 17-speaker Mark Levinson system also available.

Prices are expected to start at about £45,000.



MAKEOVER: The grille on the GS is the brand's new face

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†Models shown: Hyundai i10 Classic 1.2 at £7,195 OTR including a £1,150 customer saving. Hyundai i20 Classic 1.2 3 dr at £7,995 OTR including a £1,900 customer saving. Hyundai i30 Classic 1.4 hatchback at £9,995 OTR including a £3,785 customer saving. Prices shown include customer saving discounts where applicable against manufacturer's recommended OTR price at the time of publication and include VAT, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. 3 years' or 30,000 miles free servicing, whichever occurs sooner is available to private retail customers only on all Hyundai i20 models registered between 1st July and 30th November 2011. Servicing can be carried out by any Hyundai dealer in accordance with the Manufacturer's servicing schedule for the specific vehicle. All offers and savings are only available to private retail customers on new cars purchased and registered in the UK (excluding Channel Islands or Isle of Man), between 1st July and 30th November 2011, sourced through Hyundai Motor UK Ltd or its authorised dealers. Offers are subject to availability, may be varied or withdrawn at any time and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offers with the exception of the Hyundai i20 2 years' free servicing offer. Warranty terms and exclusions apply. See www.hyundai.co.uk/owners/5Year Warranty or ask your local dealer.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 25.9 (10.9) - 61.4 (4.6), Extra Urban 39.8 (7.1) - 74.3 (3.8), Combined 33.2 (8.5) - 67.3 (4.2) CO2 Emissions 225 - 99 g/km



Hyundai finally makes the i notes on the Mondeo scale

By Sam Davison
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

HYUNDAI had struggled to come up with a credible contestant in the family car or so-called Ford Mondeo segment.

You cannot fault the ambition behind its choice of names, but its 80s contender, the Stellar, was never heavenly, while that car's 90s and 00s successor, the Sonata, never hit the high notes.

The Korean marque has finished with names for mainstream models now. Instead, it has borrowed from Apple's string of big-selling gadgets like the iPod and iPhone, and now simply uses 'i' plus a number to scale the motoring heights... and it's worked, in the form of successful i10, i20 and i30 models.

And the latest i note is the all-new i40, tested here in what I would argue is its best format, the estate or Tourer (from £18,395) – as Hyundai calls it – although there is a saloon version.

But Hyundai expects to sell as many good-looking Tourers as the booted version, particularly to high-mileage business users who need space and low running costs.

So eye-catching is it that most people who saw the car while I had it completely missed the badge on the front. Even when they did notice the discreet H on the grille, the reaction was pretty neutral.

Which shows we have reached a key point, because the brand used to sell on value alone despite the badge, but the consumer view now is definitely shifting to acceptance that it represents quality and style, with value and the famous five-year/unlimited-mileage warranty as a bonus.

Not only does the i40 look good from the outside, it also captivates inside; the layout and quality of the trimming and materials is top-quality, matching and sometimes exceeding that of rivals like the Ford Mondeo, VW Passat, Peugeot 508 and Vauxhall Insignia – it certainly puts the Renault Laguna under pressure.

It's a more compact car than many rivals, too, but you still get a roomy cabin with excellent legroom thanks to a long wheelbase.

Typically for Hyundai, standard kit is generous, too, including automatic headlights, front fog lights, Bluetooth connectivity with voice recognition, electric front and rear windows, aircon and a six-speed gearbox for best economy.

Trading up from the Active entry-level trim unlocks even more goodies, with the middling Style and flagship Premium trims and modestly-priced options. The £500 Comfort Pack, for instance, brings heated seats throughout with a heated steering wheel thrown in – what luxury.

Just in case you wonder whether the Tourer's lifestyle estate looks come at a cost of miserly load capacity, though, note how it actually betters most rivals, with 533 litres of boot space or an impressive 1,719 litres of capacity if you fold the seats and cram the car roof high.

Premium models (from £23,795) also come with a full-length glass roof with sections that tilt and slide – many business users will choose an i40 to get so many extras within their budget.

Another reason will also be the tax benefits of the eco-friendly Blue Drive (from £19,395) versions in the line-up, fettled to deliver best consumption figures and lowest emissions and including a stop/start engine-management system that comes into play in city driving or traffic jams.

And Hyundai has already shown with Blue Drive versions of its other models that such miserly masters need not be dull to drive. In fact, the i40 chassis is light years ahead of Hyundai's aforementioned efforts in this sector, with well-weighted steering, good handling and excellent refinement.

In fact, it would have been worthy of an ambitious name rather than a number.

i40 TOURER 1.7CRDi STYLE BLUE DRIVE: PRICE £22,295



FACT FILE

Image:	★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliabilty:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Road tax:	£30/year, first year zero
Best rival:	Mazda6

Kent dealers:

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Tunbridge Wells	01892 520026
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Sidcup	0845 128 2725

MORE THAN JUST A NUMBER: The new Hyundai i40 offers style, drive and a great green rating to boot, making it a definite contender in the family car sector

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Vauxhall's Combo to beat

VAUXHALL has launched an all-new Combo panel van (from £14,703 excluding VAT).

It is available in two wheelbases, two heights, two gross vehicle weights (2,000kg and 2,300kg), two trim levels and with four engine choices. The newcomer is claimed to offer the highest payload (up to 1,000kg with driver) in its sector, while its rakish looks bely its purpose.



Ranger's new comfort zone

FORD'S all-new Ford Ranger pick-up is on sale from £15,515 (excluding VAT) and, strange as it may seem, the rough, tough workhorse aims to sell on comfort and refinement.

Totally new from the ground up, it is offered in three cab bodystyles – Double, Super and Regular – along with an extensive list of practical options plus two-wheel drive or 4x4 drivetrains.



VW goes sell for leather

VOLKSWAGEN has boosted the appeal and value of its Golf performance range – GT, GTI, GTD or R models (from £21,310) now get leather seats plus Bluetooth phone prep.

It means customers get more than £2,000 worth of extra value. Leather upholstery alone was previously a £1,890 option – the two front sports seats are heated with lumbar support.

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Official Government Test Environmental Data – Fuel Consumption Figures mpg (litres/100km): New Astra SRi hatchback: Urban: 28.5 (9.9) – 60.1 (4.7), Extra-urban: 49.6 (5.7) – 80.7 (3.5), Combined: 39.2 (7.2) – 72.4 (3.9). CO2 emissions 169 – 104g/km.

*Not available on Expression, ES, ES Tech models. **Finance Deposit Allowance not available on Astra GTC. Model shown is New Astra SRi 5dr. Finance provided by Vauxhall Finance, a trading style of GMAC UK plc, PO Box 6666, Cardiff, CF15 7YT. Finance is subject to status, terms and conditions. Applicants must be 18 years or over. Offer applies to private individuals, Vauxhall Partners and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only excluding B2B). All other customers are excluded. Offer available on orders or registrations before 19 December 2011. †Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply.

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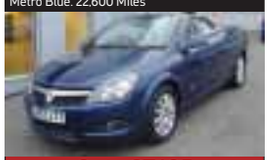
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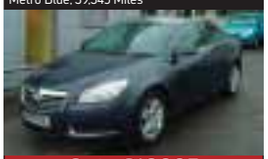
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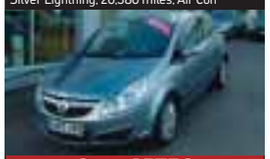
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VAUXHALL

Mazda is motoring on with Motability

MAZDA has boosted its Motability programme with special deals on selected Mazda3 and Mazda MX-5 models until the end of this year.

It has also extended a no-advance payment deal on the Mazda2 automatic supermini – one of the more popular models with disabled people who use the Motability scheme. But the headline deal is the Mazda3 1.6 TS hatchback, with manual or automatic transmission, available for an advance payment of just £499.

The Mazda3 is the Japanese brand's best-seller worldwide and the automatic features a four-speed gearbox with fully automatic and manual modes for maximum driving joy.

This 105PS(103bhp) model returns 37.2mpg on the combined fuel cycle, has CO_2 emissions of 176g/km and comes with alloys, dual-zone climate-control air-con, electric front and rear windows and a leather steering wheel with integrated audio controls as standard.



MOTABILITY STAR: The Mazda2 automatic

But a return to the scheme by the world's best-selling roadster, the Mazda MX-5 convertible, may also mean a dream come true for many Motability users. It is made possible by an advance payment of £499 for the MX-5 1.8i SE model and £849 for the 1.8i SE Air Con

Dartford-based Mazda UK's fleet chief Steve Jelliss said: "There are more than 700 Mazda3 models on Motability contracts due for renewal in the final quarter of 2011 and our autumn deals will provide another reason to stay with the Mazda brand, while our dealers can also offer a stronger proposition to other Motability drivers, in particular on the Mazda3 1.6 TS automatic."



Diesel to dominate BMW 6 pack

BMW'S beefy 6 Series Coupé has evolved into a third generation and the German executive marque claims it sets new standards in luxury 2+2 motoring.

Interestingly for such an overtly sporty car, BMW also reckons the twin turbocharged diesel version will clobber its two petrol sisters by claiming 90 per cent of UK sales.

That's probably not so surprising when the 313bhp diesel averages around 50mpg and emits a relatively modest 145 g/km of CO_2, yet is only slightly shy of the petrol versions for acceleration (0-62mph in 5.5 seconds), whereas even the junior petrol engine (320bhp) averages in the mid-30s for mpg and emits 181 g/km of CO_2.

BMW claims the diesel engine is the sportiest of its type available, able to deliver a wave of pulling power from very low down the rev range thanks to the two turbochargers, one smaller than the other, working in sequence as the driver presses down on the throttle.

But BMW has been at pains during these straitened times to emphasise the eco-friendliness of its cars as well as the power, and the new '6' carries the usual raft of Efficient-Dynamics measures to cut fuel consumption and emissions, including Brake Energy Regeneration – energy that would normally have been dissipated by the brakes is used instead to recharge the battery, meaning less drain on the engine from the alternator.

The new car also has a roomier cabin: exterior dimensions are bigger all round except that the car sits lightly lower, though this doesn't prevent it delivering more headroom in front and the rear. There is also additional shoulder and elbow room for those squeezing into the back.

New BMW 6 Series prices start at £59,565, with the diesel priced from £62,080.



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2003 Ford Mondeo 1.8 5 dr hatchback, Metallic dark blue, black cloth, a/c, CD radio, ... £2695
2003 Hyundai Matrix, AUTOMATIC, Mint Green, Low Mileage, all usual extras, ... £2495
2004 Ford Ka Collection, 1.3 Champagne metallic bodywork, 1 owner, ... £2495
2002 Vauxhall Astra 1.6 SXi 5 dr, manual, new cam belt and S/H 63K, met blue, alloys, CD radio, new MOT, only group 6 insurance £2195
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1997 Mercedes C230 Auto Elegance, unmarked Blue with tan cloth trim, Tax and MOT, luxury at only £1495
2001 Ford Mondeo 1.8 LX 5 dr Hatchback, silver, manual, quality CD Radio, all electrics £1495
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1998 MGF 1.8 convertible, metallic blue with grey trim, alloys, lovely condition, ... £1495
1998 Saab 900 SE Convertible, metallic red with contrasting black leather trim, e/roof, alloys, ... £1495

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1997 Fiat Punto 60S, 1.2 3 dr hatchback, Red, low tax and insurance model SOLD £995
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1999 Hyundai 1.6 COUPE 2 dr, silver, tax and MOT £995
1998 Vauxhall Corsa Merit, 1.2, low tax and insurance model, Blue, grey cloth trim, ... £995
2001 Citroen Xsara 5 dr Hatchback alloys, met green, grey velour trim, taxed until July 2012 £995
1998 Fiat Punto 1.2 3 dr hatchback, Red, black cloth trim, low tax and ins model, ideal 1st car, ... £995
2000 Suzuki Baleno GLX 4 dr Saloon, Manual, petrol, all electrics, ideal cheap family saloon, tax (Mar 12) and MOT £895

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*Price shown is for Savvy Style 1.2 MT; manufacturer's list price £7,995 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. ‡Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules, 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply. ^FREE servicing on Proton vehicles registered from 22nd September 2011 until 31st October 2011 and available for the first owner only.

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Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Škoda range: Urban 19.2 (14.7) – 68.9 (4.1), Extra Urban 36.2 (7.8) – 94.2 (3.0), Combined 27.7 (10.2) – 83.1 (3.4). CO2 emissions for the Škoda range 237 – 89g/km.

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4x4 Buyer's Guide

Snowy Britain heats up our interest

By Sam Davison
editorial@archant.co.uk

FORECASTS of widespread snow in the UK for October proved to be wrong, but we have suffered chilly winters lately.

Big falls in late 2010 followed on from a big freeze in January and February that same year.

It means that the traditional seasonal upturn in 4x4 sales new and used is even more pronounced lately, and not just because of the likelihood of snow and ice – roads and poorly made-up lanes can be just as treacherous after heavy rain.

It has fuelled reconciliation for 4x4s, which earned a bad reputation with consumers as wasteful gas-guzzlers when the economy took a downturn. From being the fashionable darlings of city-dwellers who liked to suggest they were country people, they were suddenly cast as the villains of the piece.

But, as Honda pointed out on behalf of its versatile CR-V model with its economical and refined 'whispering' diesel engine, not all 4x4s are the same. Indeed, some can be green and eco-friendly – Lexus even makes a petrol-electric hybrid 4x4, the RX450h

These underline the far greater choice of 4x4 vehicles now, ranging from big and beefy go-anywhere true off-roaders, right down to so-called 'soft-roaders' or SUVs; the latter might not have the ground clearance to go yomping over rough terrain, but drive to all four wheels can kick in to give you grip when it matters, and they're cheaper to buy and run.

The breakthrough has been the arrival of more economical but punchy diesel engines and cheaper all-wheel drive systems, which allow the car to run in two-wheel-drive most of the time, saving fuel, emissions and tyres, while automatically reverting to 4x4 if sensors recognise that traction is being lost by any of the wheels.



GREEN: You can go 4x4 and be eco-friendly now with the hybrid Lexus RX450h

At the top end, though, with true off-roaders, 4x4 is usually permanent and you are usually offered two sets of gear ratios: one for normal conditions and a second and much lower set that delivers extra power and traction when the going gets really tough.

Sometimes, this is packaged as a system that allows selection of a mode according to terrain or conditions, leaving the car to work out the best gears and chassis set-up.

But bulk and grunt are not everything: weight can be a curse in tough situations, whereas lighter models with 4x4 can be just as effective, providing there is enough ground clearance and you don't expect Herculean climbs in mud or snow.



STYLE: Subaru's Forester offers the best of both worlds – decent off-road capability with good on-road manners

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Our top 4x4 driving tips

DON'T ever think a 4x4 makes you invincible.

Yes, extra driving wheels and weight equals extra traction when conventional cars are losing grip or the back ends are sliding about, but a 4x4 can still skid if you do not treat treacherous conditions with respect.

What's more, the bulk of an off-roader model will cause things to happen quickly if you overcook things.

Ten top tips for when things get tricky

- Use dipped headlights – snow flakes or driving rain, like fog, will simply reflect light back at you.
- Watch your speed – things happen fast on slippery surfaces. Keep a stopping distance equivalent to what is visible and clear ahead of you and do not follow the vehicle in front too closely. As a yardstick, stopping distances are 10 times longer in snow and ice.
- Softly does it – gentle use of the accelerator, brakes, clutch and steering prevents loss of control. Avoid wheelspin when pulling away by selecting 2nd gear and easing in the clutch.
- If the car has a specific mode for the driving conditions, then select it – the onboard computer can think and react faster than you.
- Right gear – try to anticipate gear changes ahead of a new gradient. Be in the right gear at the start of climbing rather than risk loss of control with a hurried change halfway, and reduce the risk of a skid by selecting a lower gear on descent – 1st gear in the lowest set of ratios, if fitted, gives maximum control in tricky conditions. In the case of an auto-transmission without a manual override, there should be a low-drive option or a terrain-control option for snow and ice.
- Think high on the flat – lower gears work on the gradients, but a higher gear is best on the level as a lower gear increases the torque or pulling power of the vehicle and, therefore, the chance of a skid from over-application of the accelerator.
- Clean feet – knock off snow, ice or mud from your boots or shoes in case they cause your feet to slip on the controls.
- Clear before you go – remove snow and ice from mirrors and windows for maximum visibility and clear the bodywork and roof, too, to avoid snow sliding on to the windscreen and obscuring your view.
- Enough fuel? Never set out in bad weather without adequate fuel. If forced to halt, you may need the spare fuel to keep the car heated until conditions improve or rescue arrives. Pack some drinks and provisions before leaving, too.
- Snow chains – if you intend driving to the Alps, you must pack them or risk a fine from the police... and do check the vehicle's manual beforehand to determine which wheels you need to fit them on. Don't think a 4x4 can do without them if the going gets tough.



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4x4s are finding a new place





LOTS OF CHOICE: Stylish, sporty and blessed with decent 4x4 performance, the Kia Sportage is very much in demand (top); rugged, capacious and available with four doors is Isuzu's Rodeo Denver (above)

FOUR-wheel-drive cars have been criticised for lacking green credentials as the world faces up to global warming, but they are not all gas-guzzlers.

Diesel power has cut fuel consumption while boosting low-down power, and consumers have taken to more compact models.

So, despite the controversy, there seems to be no shortage of buyers for the type helped by load-carrying flexibility, improved road manners, high driving position and the country-set image.

The sector is now dominated by SUVs (sports utility vehicles) or soft-roaders, though serious off-road brands like Land Rover still have cachet as well as genuine ability on- and off-road.

Here is a round-up of notable brands and models:

Honda The CR-V is one of the UK's best-selling SUVs and this appeal is helped by its made-in-UK status – it is built at Swindon – excellent on-road manners and styling that is more estate car than butch 4x4.

Isuzu Earns a place here for producing the rugged Rodeo pick-up truck, which, in full four-door 4x4 Denver format, will take you and the family most places you would expect from a full off-roader while also hauling a decent load.

Kia Produces two of the best SUVs money can buy: the aggressive yet affordable Sportage and the seven-seat Sorento, which makes a mockery of spending extra on rivals like the Volvo XC90.

Land Rover 4x4 comes pretty much as standard with this legendary off-road brand, though its new baby Range Rover, the Evoque, is also available in eco-friendly front-wheel-drive-only trim, too. For the full 4x4 experience, there is the original go-anywhere Land Rover Defender, the capacious seven-seat Land Rover Discovery 4, plus two further luxurious models – the original Range Rover and the racier Sport.



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in the market



TOP TO TOW: A Land Rover Discovery 4 demonstrates a major spin-off from owning a 4x4

Lexus Toyota's luxury arm offers arguably the greenest 4x4 available, in the form of the petrol-electric RX450h hybrid SUV – it can sip fuel or accelerate like a sports car. Interestingly, Lexus also produces the LS600h luxury flagship saloon, which has all-wheel drive courtesy of its hybrid powertrain.

Mercedes-Benz Offers the R-Class luxury people-carrier with all-wheel drive, but its main 4x4 business is with the M-Class and even bigger seven-seat GL-Class. These will carry you off-road in style, but M-B has also relaunched its ultimate mud-basher, the G-Class – formerly known as the G-Wagon.

Skoda Offers the quite brilliant Yeti SUV that virtually qualifies as a proper off-roader when bought in full 4x4 trim, but there are also excellent all-wheel-drive versions of the Octavia and flagship Superb car models.

Subaru The Japanese 4x4 car brand offers the hatchback Impreza, the family-size Legacy saloon and estate, the chunky Outback estate spin-off from the Legacy line-up and the classy Forester SUV – the last having credible off-road ability, too. The brand is famous for the ruggedness and durability of its cars.

Toyota Aims to please all comers by offering an all-wheel-drive version of the Urban Cruiser mini-SUV, the ever-popular RAV4 SUV – the original compact 4x4 and now in its third generation – and, of course, the proper-job Land Cruiser, which has true go-anywhere ability.



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RAV4 XT-R 2.2 D-4D 150 AWD 5 door Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 39.2 (7.2), Extra Urban 56.5 (5.0), Combined 48.7 (5.8). CO2 Emissions 154g/km.

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GOLF



Picture: NIKE

STRUGGLE: Matt Haines missed his first 17 cuts

Tour demands surprise Haines

EUROPEAN Tour rookie Matt Haines has admitted his dreadful start to the season was down to a lack of hard work.

The 21-year-old had enjoyed a meteoric rise, earning his card on the elite tour only six months after turning professional thanks to a run of strong results on the Challenge Tour last year.

Haines, who represents Rochester & Cobham Park, found the step up far tougher and his form suffered – missing his first 17 cuts on tour. The drought was finally ended at the BMW International in June with a 67th-place finish.

While he has gone on to make eight cuts in the last 14 tournaments, including two top-20 finishes, Haines faces a tough task to finish in the top 115 on the money list to retain his card. If his bid falls short, he concedes it will be down to not doing the hours expected of a European Tour professional earlier in the year.

"I wasn't really putting in the work, so I didn't give myself a chance," he said. "If I had started the year playing as I am at the moment, I think I'd have my card secured for next year already.

"It probably took me half a season to realise I needed to do more on everything. When I went home between tournaments you want to take a few days off, but you have to be ready for the next tournament before you leave rather than once you get there. If I had my time again, I would definitely knuckle down from the start.

"I've learned so much this year, more than I have in the previous 10 years I've been playing."

Haines has only two chances left to climb the 51 places in the rankings he needs to be sure of a place on tour next year.

If he falls short in the tournaments in South Africa, he will have to go qualifying school in December.

CRICKET

Kent confident of strong coach short-list after global interest

By David Pritchard
david.pritchard@archant.co.uk

MORE than 50 applications to become Kent's new head coach will be looked at next week as the club step up their search to find Paul Farbrace's successor.

Candidates have until Monday evening to submit their CVs and a panel will begin the process of whittling down the group from Tuesday to draw up a short-list.

Interviews are expected to take place before the end of the month and the club hope to make a final decision before Christmas.

Farbrace parted company with Kent in September after two years as director of cricket. The vacant post was advertised as a head coach to attract a broader spectrum of interested parties, which appears to have paid off.

Jamie Clifford, Kent's chief executive, is pleased with the quantity and quality of applications, which have arrived from around the globe.

"I've had conversations with people around the world and had lots of emails from people all over the place," he said. "I'm confident we'll get a decent short-list and from that select a decent coach.

"There are some exciting names that are on the list and I don't think we'll struggle for a decent appointment. County cricket jobs don't come up every day.

"Just as overseas players like to test themselves in county cricket, the coaches do as well. I think they see it as a real challenge of their coaching skills, so I was never too worried.

"Not only are there coaches from overseas who want to get into county cricket but the ECB Coach Development Programme is very good and there is a large number of very well qualified coaches now who are looking to land those head coach roles."

Clifford met Graham Johnson, Kent's chairman of cricket, on Friday to discuss how to move forward and create the panel that will make the key decision.

The brief sent out to candidates sets the bar high. While it is clear the club are looking for someone with experience, it does not specifically ask for someone who has previously been a head coach.





Pictures: ADY KERRY

HUNT: Jamie Clifford (left) will look at head coach CVs next week, while Azhar Mahmood is set to sign

It reads: "The suitable candidate will be astute, results driven, well organised, with a track record of success gained through effective coaching at all levels and will currently be successful in a senior coaching position. A knowledge, appreciation and understanding of the game is absolutely critical."

Despite the vacancy, plans continue to progress on the playing side. As expected, Robbie Joseph has been released at the end of his contract, bringing an end to the paceman's seven-year stay at the St Lawrence Ground.

When fully fit, the Antigua-born seamer, who took almost 150 first-class wickets for the county, had the ability to produce devastating spells, which led to selection for the England Performance Squad's trip to India in 2008. But his career with Kent was severely hampered by a succession of injuries, most seriously to his shoulder, from which he struggled to recover.

The 29-year-old's departure left Azhar Mahmood and Simon Cook as the only players whose future remains undecided.

Movement is expected on both imminently, with Mahmood due to finalise a new contract next week.

Clifford said: "I don't think there are any problems there and I hope we wrap it up very quickly. Azhar's due to go back to Pakistan at the end of next week, so I think it would be good to get it tidied up before he goes and I'm sure he'd want to do that as well.

"I'm a superstitious person, I don't like talking too positively until there's a name on the bit of paper, but I've always spoken confidently about Azhar. It's just a case of getting it done."

Negotiations with Cook have been held up, with the bowler out of the country since the end of the season. The 34-year-old is now back and met Clifford on Monday; he is due for further talks next week.

Elsewhere, Kent have also begun tentative negotiations with Mike Powell with a view to signing the experienced batsman, who has scored 25 first-class centuries, for next season.

The 34-year-old spent 15 seasons at Glamorgan before he was released at the end of this summer.

SUPERBIKES

Camier revved up for World Superbikes despite offer to join MotoGP

LEON Camier has revealed he turned down a chance to ride in MotoGP next season in favour of signing for Crescent Suzuki to take care of unfinished business in the World Superbike Championship (WSB).

After two years in the series with Aprilia Alitalia, the Ashford rider this week signed a deal to join Crescent for 2012.

Camier, who finished seventh in this year's championship, had several offers on the table at the end of the season. One option was to step up to MotoGP, but it became available after serious talks with Crescent had begun.

With the 25-year-old also uncertain about significant rule changes in the series due to be introduced for 2012, plus a sense he had not fulfilled his potential in WSB, it did not sway Camier from the negotiations.

He said: "Something came quite late in the day, a possible opportunity in MotoGP. It was too late, really, and I was already committed to Crescent Suzuki.

"I have still got business I need to attend to in World Superbikes. The last two years haven't gone how I wanted them to – I've had some really good results, but it's been up and down."

Camier is delighted with the move and due to begin testing later this month.

Staying with Aprilia was never really an option and one of the big attractions to his new team is an improved role in the team. Whereas with the Italian outfit he was number two to team-mate Max Biaggi, it will not be repeated at Crescent.



Picture: APRILIA ALITALIA

MOVE: Leon Camier agreed to join Crescent Suzuki after two years at Aprilia

"There were a lot of issues behind the scenes, stuff which didn't help at all," he said.

"I'm looking for everything to run smoother with Crescent and there are good vibes from the team. It should be equal status between the two riders – no dramas either way, which would be absolutely great."

Crescent are yet to name their second rider for next year. It is believed they are waiting on a decision from John Hopkins, who narrowly missed out on the British Superbike (BSB) title with the team this season.

If the American does not make the move with Crescent to WSB, the favourites to become Camier's team-mate are both Kent riders.

Tommy Hill, who pipped Hopkins to the BSB title, told this newspaper last month he had several potential WSB offers. If the Beckenham-born rider misses out, it could allow Sheppey's Shane Byrne to return. The veteran was Camier's team-mate at Airwaves

FOOTBALL

Gills forward recalls racist abuse fright as incidents reignite debate

By David Pritchard
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Picture: ADY KERRY



ALLEGATIONS involving England captain John Terry have shone the spotlight on racism in football but despite experiencing abuse from the terraces Gillingham's Dennis Oli believes the sport has done a good job in stamping out problems.

It has been a grim fortnight for anti-racism campaigners in the sport. The Football Association and Metropolitan Police have begun investigations into an alleged incident between Terry and Anton Ferdinand during Chelsea's visit to Queens Park Rangers last month, while Newcastle United's Sammy Ameobi was subjected to racist abuse on Twitter.

It brought back memories for Oli of the only time he has been racially abused during almost a decade in senior football. It came right at the start of his career, as a teenager at QPR on an away trip to Cardiff City.

"We were at Ninian Park, I was warming up as a sub and they were calling at me," he said.

"As a youngster you think 'wow, I've never experienced that', it was frightening and intimidating. It was a shock, when you're young you are naive and just excited about playing. You're warming-up and then you get abused, you don't know what to do and I ended up running to the dugout.

"I didn't really want to come on after that. I didn't in the end, which is good because I wasn't in the right frame of mind.

"You get shouted at by fans, you don't really mind that, but when it comes to colour that's unacceptable today."

To Oli's relief, it has not been repeated since.

He said: "That's the only incident I've had and that was eight years ago. The game's improved a hell of a lot, so if Terry did say that it would be a big surprise because as England and Chelsea captain, you don't expect that. We'll see what happens, hopefully he didn't say it.

"Now if that was to happen to me again – and I doubt it would – I'd know how to get on with it and I wouldn't be affected.

"Hopefully I won't experience it and those days are gone."

The 27-year-old made a welcome return to training this week after almost a month on the sidelines. It is the latest in a succession of hamstring problems which have limited Oli to just three starts for the Gills since May, 2010, but the forward is adamant the problems have been overcome.

He said: "I know 100 per cent in my mind it's right and I'm thinking 'it's going to go', that's out of my mind now. Since I've come back I've been able to sprint so I know it won't go again because it's stronger than it was before."

ONE-OFF: Dennis Oli has only experienced one incident of racial abuse in his career and believes football has made great strides in eradicating the problem

CYCLING

House stays for Rapha's youth plan

KRISTIAN House will adopt a mentoring role next season as his Rapha Condor Sharp team change their emphasis towards developing young riders.

The outfit have established themselves as one of the top names in British cycling in recent years but have decided to change their focus for 2012. The squad has been overhauled to assist talented youngsters on their way up.

House, 32, is one of a handful of experienced riders who remain and will be expected to help guide the new recruits.

The former national road racing champion, who was born in Canterbury, was looking for a new challenge and the fresh approach convinced him to sign a new deal.

Picture: ADY KERRY



EXPERIENCED: Kristian House

He said: "It was the team's change in direction that actually prompted me to stay. Its a completely revamped team, and a good focus on younger riders.

"A lot of the young guys we've signed have already proven themselves on an international scale, so I think we will be competitive in most races we go to. Some of the guys might feel out of depth at first but it's being put in those situations that then bring you on. I think we'll surprise a few people though."

House's next race is likely to be Tour of South Africa in February.

FOOTBALL

Praise for City's role in ghost goal controversy

A SELFLESS act of sportsmanship has earned Canterbury City praise after they stood by to deliberately concede a goal against Fisher last weekend.

City were winning an already extraordinary Kent League Premier Division Cup first-leg tie 6-5 when their opponents 'scored' an equaliser at a corner. But the officials missed the incident and, with the ball passing through a hole in the net, awarded a goal kick.

To make amends for the error, City boss Paul Murray instructed his side to return the ball to Fisher and allow them to score.

Denise Richmond, chairman of the Kent League, said: "I think it's quite refreshing in a world that's quite cynically regarded as not very sporting. The Respect programme is not just about refereeing, it's about everybody in the game."

Picture: DMULLANEYPHOTOGRAPHY.CO.UK



SPORTING: Canterbury City (left)

Murray felt it was the only action which should have been taken. He said: "It was a cracking game played in a good spirit and they scored a perfectly good goal. It was the right thing to do and I'd like to think if it was the other way round they would have done the same for us."

The game ended 6-6.

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
FOCUS
WITH **FRED ATKINS**

What hope for island game?

JOKES about islands and inhabitants are pretty much the same wherever you go, with the punch lines usually making reference to the depth of the gene pool and being introduced to someone's wife and sister when there's only one person standing there etc, etc.

When it comes to football the standard gag is about it being easier to control the ball when you've got six toes, but the game seldom thrives in such communities and things look particularly bleak on Sheppey.

On Kent's largest island the highest ranked football team has, for the decade since Sheppey United folded, been Sheerness East, now of the Kent County League Premier Division.

This is a pretty grim statistic, although criticising East would be like blaming Tim Henman for the fact that everyone else in the country was useless at tennis when he was Britain's number one – it isn't East's fault that they happen to be consistently the best junior side on an island where senior football no longer exists.

Technically the most successful island side in Britain is Portsmouth, although few visitors to Fratton Park would realise they'd crossed the creek that separates it from the mainland. Both Ramsgate and Margate play on the Isle of Thanet, although barring a tidal surge they won't count as island teams any time soon.

A more representative comparison could be made with Canvey, which has a similar population to Sheppey, is a comparable distance from London, has road links to the mainland and currently has two sides in the Ryman Premier Division.

Even the Isle of Wight has two senior sides and while the Channel Islands tend to keep themselves to themselves (provide your own punch line here) in recent seasons they have produced Matthew Le Tissier and Graeme Le Saux.

Trying to find similar claims to fame for Sheppey isn't easy. According to the "full wiki" website, Sheppey's most famous son is Rod Hull, who was killed when he fell off his roof while trying to improve the reception of a Manchester United game.

On a slightly less tenuous note, the great Arsenal manager Herbert Chapman spent a season playing for Sheppey in 1898-99 and the island has produced a several professionals down the years.

There is still a potential fan base and some money left over from the sale of the Botany Road ground, but the lack of infrastructure continues to cripple ambition.

The Kent Invicta League was formed this season with the specific intention of helping ambitious clubs who lacked facilities ascend the ranks, but United didn't even join that.

There are still enough people who remember United's halcyon days to make a return to the senior ranks feasible, but their numbers are dwindling and with every year that passes Sheppey seems ever more cut off.





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